

Introduction to Psychology

Parents & Students:

Psychology classes are designed to help you learn more about yourself, those around you, and the interactions of life! This class was designed to be taken during your **senior** year of high school. So, if you're reading this, **congratulations -- you're a senior!!!!** By the way, Psychology is a full-year course, so I've included the topics for both semesters.

Organization

The Introduction to Psychology class is a *participatory class*. In other words, you need to be in class as much as possible to get the most benefit. This class is not taught out of a textbook. In fact, I don't even give out a textbook. Instead, we will use supplemental readings, class discussion, videos, worksheets & demonstrations to convey the topics of Psychology. As you can see, it just can't be made up by reading a textbook! During the year, we will cover the following topics:

★ History of Psychology	★ Research Methods	★ Learning Theories
★ Creativity/Intelligence	★ Personality	★ Consciousness
★ Memory & the Brain	★ Adolescent Psychology	★ Sensation & Perception
★ Developmental Psychology	★ Motivation & Emotion	★ Social Psychology
★ Mental Disorders	★ Treatment	

As a student of psychology, you will be learning scientific, humanistic, and behavioral reasons for people's reactions towards life! **This course, by no means, gives students or myself the ability to become a psychologist for others.**.....it is a way for students to have a better understanding of who they are and how humans behave in different situations!

Assignments, Tests, Quizzes & Projects (Assessment)

Assignments are due on the date specified unless an excused absence is registered in the office, or the student discusses their situation with me *prior* to the date due. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED UNLESS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE OF DUE DATE.** Throughout each semester, you will have a variety of assessments including tests, quizzes, group & solo projects. ***Your final semester grade is a weighted, semester-long grade (not an average of 2 quarters!)***

Grading

Grading will be weighted with the following scale:

• Tests & Quizzes	15%	A = 90%-100%
• Classroom & Homework		B = 80%-89%
• Assignments	40%	C = 70%-79%
• Daily Participation &		D = 60%-69%
• Work ethic	10%	F = < 60%
• Projects	35%	

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- ✓ Respect your classmates and teacher - their ideas, comments, mannerisms, etc.
- ✓ Listen when others are speaking. **Do not carry on private conversations** during the lectures, guest presentations or work sessions.
- ✓ Attend class and **be on time**.
- ✓ **Participate!!!** -- Whether that participation is active or passive - just participate!!!!
- ✓ Be responsible for your own actions and behaviors
- ✓ Classroom materials are for the use of all students – please use them, then put them back!
- ✓ **All work assigned is expected to be your own work.** Please **do not attempt to plagiarize**. When working in or outside of class, it is expected that you work alone unless it is specifically stated by the teacher that you may work with someone else on the assignment. *If, at any time, I feel that you are copying or collaborating on work, I will give both parties a zero for the assignment. (No questions asked).*

CELL PHONE/MULTIMEDIA POLICY

When in the classroom, all cell phones and multimedia devices are to be “invisible”. Turn off phones, and put away all devices. If I see a phone, Ipad, etc., **I will confiscate it until the end of my teaching day (2:30) when you can pick it up.** Under ***no circumstances*** will phones be used (texting, music, photos, etc.) during class. During “solo” work in the class and test/quizzes, you may use a personal music device (not cell phone).

OFFICE HOURS

I am usually at my desk every morning by 7:15. I am available during zero hour on access days (Monday, Tuesday & Friday). If I am not at my desk, please leave me a note telling me you dropped by (name/date/time/reason) so that I can try to find you! In addition, you can email me at janiev@spokaneschools.org.

TARDY & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please examine the school-wide policies given to you at the beginning of the year. I will adhere to those policies as closely as possible. Furthermore, as a responsible senior, you need to be on time for class. Remember that this is an elective class – you chose to be here. If you are chronically tardy, it disrupts the class. Every year there is a waiting list to get into Psychology. If, at the end of the semester, you have demonstrated that you are an individual who is not capable of getting to class on time or missing an extended amount of class time, I will strongly suggest that you drop the class so that someone who wants to be here can take it. If you are **absent for more than 2 class periods in a row**, please email me for assignments during or before the absence.

***** Eligibility to pass 1st semester Psychology-3 of 4 items must be completed:**

1. **90% attendance for semester (6 or less absences, excused or unexcused)-this includes tardies more than 10 minutes**
2. **Individual Personality Project**
3. **Group Personality Project**
4. **Cumulative Final Test**

Please note that **class participation points will be awarded on a daily basis.** If you are not there, you **CANNOT make up these points!** It is essential that you come to class – however, a certain number of absences are unavoidable. I have taken this into consideration when calculating the participation grade. A combination of 5 tardies and absences will not effect your participation grade greatly. However, understand that a combination of tardies and absences above 5 WILL effect your final grade in the class!

When class is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to schedule any make-up work. Email me or come in during the next access time available. Makeup work and makeup test/quizzes will not be given out more than 1 week after a students return to school.

I hope you enjoy this class. I do everything possible to make it a fun, pleasant and enjoyable environment for you to learn in. As seniors, I attempt to give you as much freedom as possible in choices of assignments and class management. (In other words, I treat you as young adults.) In return, all I ask is that you try to the best of your personal abilities to perform at the highest quality you can, to learn about psychology and to respect the freedoms and choices given to you without taking advantage of a good thing!!!!

Let's have a great year!!!!

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For a copy of these expectations, please see my web site: home.centurytel.net/msv