

## Honor's PSYCHOLOGY

"Like all science, psychology is knowledge; and like science again, it is knowledge of a definite thing, the mind." - James M. Bald



Welcome to Honor's Psychology! I am excited to learn and grow with you this coming year as we gain a greater appreciation for our Creator through social science.

### Contact Information:

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Please be aware of the unusual spelling of my first name)

*Textbook:* Myers, David G. (2010). *Psychology for AP\**. New York, Worth Publishing, 2010.

### Materials –

- 3 subject spiral notebook, label the front with first and last name
- 3-ring binder
- Something to write with
- Assigned work for the day
- Do *not* bring-
  - Food or drink (see handbook for directive)

### Technology

"All high school students are required to have a fully charged, fully functioning laptop in class each day. Cell phones and other tablets are not acceptable devices."

### Category Weights & Course Expectations

Calculation of your grade is based on your home learning (10%), quizzes (30%), tests (50%), in-class activities and preparation (10%). In class participation is hard when you are not in class. Plan to be in class.

## Course Description

Honor's Psychology will provide students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields within psychology. Students will learn about the methods that psychologists use in their science and practice. Content will include, but not be limited to, methods, biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, personality, testing for intelligence and personality, abnormal psychology, treatment of disorders, and social psychology.

In this yearlong course, students will be expected to understand objective, empirical methods of collecting and interpreting data, make meaningful interconnection between disparate concepts, and analyze, evaluate and analyze thematic perspectives.

This course will expand your knowledge, challenge your mind and, at times, be entertaining! It will help you to better understand yourself and those around you.

## Purpose of the Course

The purpose of Honor's Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

## Course Objectives

The central question addressed in Honor's Psychology is "How do psychologists think?" The psychology David Myers wrote that to think as a psychologist, one must learn to "restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding" (Sternberg, 1997). Whether students choose to pursue a career related to psychology or a career in some entirely different field, this habit of mind will be of great value.

*All students will be able to:*

- Distinguish between the major core concepts and theories of psychology.
- Utilize key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
- Demonstrate mastery of the explorations and discoveries made by psychologists <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> over the past century.
- Assess diverse approaches to psychology that are adopted by psychologists, <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> including biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> socio-cultural perspectives.
- Show basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> concepts to their own lives through critical thinking skills. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Most important, students will come to an appreciation of how psychologists think, as well as an appreciation of the kind of critical analysis that psychologists espouse in practice.

## Assessment Practices

Traditional exam assessments will include cumulative tests, reading and vocabulary quizzes. Exams model the format of the AP Psychology Exam, with a combination of 70 multiple-choice and 1-2 free-response essays at the end of each unit. Quizzes keep you accountable for reading and come from each assigned section.

Each unit will require a different amount of work that will adequately cover the chapter. Assigned readings are scheduled each week with assignment packs covering chapter material and vocabulary.

### Expectations

- Be familiar with the student handbook in regards to student expectations, absences and tardies.
- Remember the work you turn in is a reflection of your effort on the assignment. This is a college level course I expect college level work.
- If you are tardy unexcused and miss a reading or vocabulary quiz, you will not be able to make it up later. It is a zero. If you are absent for a reading or vocabulary quiz, it is your responsibility to come to me for a make-up date. I will not seek you out.
- Do not cheat, the expectation is for you to pass the AP Exam, not buff your grade. The amount of work you do, money spent on the exam and book, as well as the money that could be saved in college should be motivation to get this done.

### Availability:

- Help sessions and study sessions are available every Wednesday from 2:50-3:30. There is no need to make arrangements as I will be there waiting for you 😊. All other days after school, please let me know if you would like to come in and I will make sure to be in my room unless I have a scheduled after school duty. As we progress in the year, we may need to come up with a schedule for specific days for AP Psych, as I will need to help my chemistry students as well.

Please read the Honor's Psychology syllabus and then sign and return this sheet by Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

My child and I have read the syllabus given.

Student name printed \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email! Just remember the spelling:  
[stephenie.hopper@sfcakings.org](mailto:stephenie.hopper@sfcakings.org)

I look forward to a GREAT year!  
Mrs. Hopper

