

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2019

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Course Summary

This course is devoted to understanding and interpreting human behavior. Our study will include the origins of psychology, the brain in action, sensory processes, consciousness, different types of learning, intelligence, mental disorders, and, time permitting, even more.

Expected Student Outcome

Students completing this course will have a basic – or better – understanding of why humans act the way they do. Students will understand themselves and the world around them better. For example, students will better understand the following:

- History of psychology
- Main psychological approaches in use today
- The brain at work
- Senses and perception
- Nature of sleep and dreams
- Consciousness
- Multiple intelligences
- IQ testing
- Neurotic mental disorders

Teaching Methodology

This course is a combination of teacher-centered activity and student-centered activity. Students are expected to talk about what they have heard and read and to discuss the implications, ramifications, merits, flaws, and so on. Small group activities will be held throughout the semester. Quizzes are given every week (or perhaps every other week). Chapter tests will follow each chapter that we cover in class.

Grading

Grades will be determined by the total number of points accumulated; this includes tests, quizzes, essays, projects, and on how well you are fulfilling your responsibilities to read and discuss in class. Attendance matters here, so does the quality and quantity of your in-class participation. I will always reward effort. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter. Any make-up tests/quizzes *may* be in an all-essay form. Final grades will follow Hopewell's standard grading procedures. For example, 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, etc.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is not allowed. Good academic work must be based on honesty; students are expected to do their own work. In the academic community people earn their living through the use of their work, ideas, and words. Their reputation is built, in part, by others using their ideas and giving credit to the author. Students caught plagiarizing will earn no points whatsoever on that particular assignment. Furthermore, they may receive a failing grade for that nine week grading period.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Personal devices are no longer allowed during instructional periods. This is school policy; therefore, it will be followed in my classroom. That means smartphones, cellphones, smart watches, tablets, et cetera, must be turned off and placed in the "phone holder" hanging on the door that leads to the library. Tablets (since they won't fit into the phone holder) must be turned off and placed on the countertop by the world map. This will be done as soon as you enter the room. After class students will retrieve their devices.

Text

Spencer A. Rathus, *Psychology: Principles in Practice*. (USA: Holt McDougal, 2010.) It's a good textbook. Make sure you read all assigned pages!

Homework

Late homework will be worth a maximum of fifty percent of the normal assignment grade.

Rules of Conduct

The following is a brief list of rules that will be followed by all:

- Be in the classroom on time.
- Bring what you need with you to class.
- Participate. Remember, I reward effort!
- If you eat or drink in class don't make a mess.
- You will only work on Psychology in this classroom.
- Act like a young adult I'll treat you like one.
- All phones/devices will be turned off and placed in the aforementioned phone holder.
- If you consistently come unprepared for class you will lose points and you will notice it when you receive your report card!

Tentative Curriculum

Chapter 1

- Introductions – early contributors – modern psychological theories of behavior – this is a short introductory chapter

Chapter 3

- Brain in action – left brain/right brain – nervous systems – awareness

Chapter 4

- Five senses – perception – ESP

Chapter 5

- Consciousness – sleep/dreams – sleep disorders

Chapters 9

- Intelligence – IQ – creativity – MR (Intellectual Disability)

Chapter 18

- Neurotic mental disorders

Website

All Hopewell teachers have a website. If you miss class and want to see what is due, or when we have an upcoming quiz or test, just do the following:

- Go to Hopewell's website, which is www.hopewellarea.org
- Click on the tab marked "Schools"
- Click on "High School"
- Click on the link for "Faculty/Staff Directory" (it's on the left)
- Our last names are alphabetized; click on "Samek" and you will arrive at my website.
- If you click on the other link you can email me at my school email address.
- I try to update the website 2-3 times a week.
- You will see links for a syllabus and a study guide. There will always be updated information on assignments.

This syllabus is meant to be a guide to what will probably happen in our class throughout the semester. It is subject to change at my discretion; however, I will give you plenty of advance notice if there are any changes. Any additional reading assignments will be provided well in advance. There will be a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions about the syllabus, expectations, assignments, tests, etc. I hope you enjoy learning; have fun while you do so!

