COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the studies of behavior and mental processes of humans and animals. Students will be provided with a critical overview of the study of psychology, focusing on the theories and research methods used in psychological science and practice. Because psychology is a fascinating course, it is possible to explore the field using a variety of methods. The course information will be presented through lectures, class participation activities, demonstrations, and audio-visual aids. Students will use the text books and other resources such as the internet, popular media, newspapers, and professional Psychological publications in order to conduct research throughout the year. Students will learn about the methods and ethical approaches of professional psychology.

You are to be commended for taking on the challenge of a college-level course during this year. If the effort is put in, the rewards can be significant. It is our goal to create a level of understanding and interest in psychology that will benefit you in this class and the rest of your college-level classes.

COURSE TEXTBOOK
Science of Psychology: Approach View, 2nd edition by Laura King

COURSE WEBSITE
Miami Beach Schoolwires: http://miamibeachhigh.schoolwires.com//Domain/293

Students are responsible for actively checking the website for announcements, assignments, updates etc. If students have limited internet access, they can make an appointment to use the computers in the classroom or go to the media center to access their materials.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- 3-ring binder OR 3 subject notebook
- College ruled notebook paper (for students using a binder for notes)
- Index cards (you need LOTS of these)
- 1 pack of dividers (for binder, optional)
- Folder for handouts
- 1 highlighter (any color)
- 2 blue or black ink pens


Please search for the best prices. You can get good deals on many books this way.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)
CLASSPOLICIES

General Expectations:
  o Attendance is paramount to success in this class. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. When the bell rings to begin class, students must be seated and engaged in the daily “Do Now” activity. Students are also expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities, and complete all assigned readings and other assignments.

  o Be polite and respect other’s opinions and beliefs. Students are expected to follow the rules and procedures that are given on the first day of school.

  o You must follow the dress code policy. This includes your ID which should be worn at all times.

Cheating/Plagiarism:
  o NO CHEATING or PLAGIARISM! There are NO EXCUSES and I have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for these offenses.

  o Students will be doing a substantial amount of writing both in class and at home. Work is expected to be original, which means students are not to copy answers directly from a book, the internet, or another student.

  o All typed assignments will be submitted via Turnitin.com, and checked for grammar and plagiarism. Plagiarized papers will result in a zero for the assignment and an appearance before the MBSH ethics board for plagiarism. Note that plagiarism may result in the removal of a student from the AP class and/or a failing grade for the assignment, marking period, or course.

Grading:
  o Since our objective will be to prepare you for the national AP exam that is administered in May, your grade for each grading period will consist of college-level multiple-choice exams, vocabulary quizzes, essays and daily activities.

  o Grades will be determined by your performance on the quizzes (pop or announced), exams, essays, projects and other classroom activities. Very little extra credit is offered; do not count on using it to save your grade. Whatever grade you earn at the end of the term is the grade you earn in the class. There is no negotiating.

  o Tests are not necessarily graded on a curve.

  o According to Miami-Dade County Public Schools policy, students may only make up work for excused absences and they must do so within a week of being absent. More than 10 unexcused hours may result in automatic “No Credit”. All grades and agreements made in Ms. Balgobin’s class are subject to student attendance and the “No Credit” policy.

Grading Criteria:
  • Tests: 5 grades
  • Essays: 3 grades
  • Quizzes: 3 grades

(Theinstructor reserves therighttomodifythefollowingsyllabus as she deems necessary)
• Projects: 3-5 grades
• Do Now Activities: 0.5-1 grade

Grading Scale: A (4.0-3.5) = Excellent, B (3.4-2.5) = Above Average, C (2.4-1.5) = Average, D (1.4-1) = Below Average, F (0.9-0) = Failure

• Please note that grades will not be rounded off and will reflect the calculations made by Gradebook

Reading:
  o Students are responsible for reading and studying the text. While much of the text will be discussed in class, some of it will be covered through independent learning. Everything in the book has the possibility to be on the AP exam, so you are expected study all of it. Failure to read the entire text, and supplemental reading, will likely have a negative impact on your grade. Therefore, KEEPING UP WITH THE DAILY READING IS CRUCIAL FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE!
  
  o The course textbook will be extremely valuable in preparing for tests and quizzes, but students should not limit themselves to these resources only. In addition to the reading required from the textbook, additional reading will be assigned during the academic year.

  o Students will be expected to use any resources necessary to complete the objectives of this course. There are several other texts and study guides available in the classroom for students to utilize which will help prepare them for the AP Exam at the end of the school year.

Note Taking:
  o Keep a notebook or binder with all class notes. You are responsible to bring your notebook or binder to every class. If I check for notebooks/binders and you do not have it, you will receive a failing grade for that day. Class notes should be written in BLUE or BLACK INK PEN. ABSOLUTELY NO PENCIL

PowerPoint Lecture Notes:
  o All PowerPoint Lecture notes are available to print or download on Ms. Balgobin’s website: http://miamibeachhigh-schoolwires.com//Domain/293
  o Students should have access to the PowerPoint lecture notes either electronically or have a printed copy in class at all times.

Videos:
  o Some documentary videos, movies or video clips from TV shows or movies may be used during the school year to encourage critical thinking and allow students to analyze and apply concepts learned in the classroom to situations that may occur during our lifespan.

Documentaries, Movies, Video Clips that may be used:
  o One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Sybil, Brain Games, Thin, Taboo, Inside Out, Coco, Pay It Forward, Rainman, American Addict, One of Two Minds, Stress the Portrait of killer, A Beautiful Mind, Hoarding Buried Alive, My strange Addiction, Toddlers and Tiaras, The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas, Schindler’s List, Bing Bang Theory, Friends

Essay Writing:
  o The College Board requires students to write essays in dark blue or black ink, as such any work submitted to Ms. Balgobin not completed thusly will not receive a grade. ABSOLUTELY NO PENCIL! Any assignment that is written in pencil will not be accepted and will result in an F.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)
In addition, all work that is turned in for grading needs to be legibly written in blue or black ink pen or typed.

**Electronic Devices:**
- You are allowed to use some electronic devices (iPads, tablets, laptops, electronic notebooks) in class to take notes however, if the device is not being used for class work and becomes a distraction, it will be confiscated and will be returned to the student at the end of the class period.
- No cellular phones are allowed to be used during class. If someone needs to contact you, they should contact the main office.

**Privacy: Recording, Videotaping, Taking Pictures:**
- Students are not allowed to video record, take pictures, voice record etc. in the classroom. This is a privacy issue and legal action can be taken if violated.

**Make Up Policy:**
- If a student misses a homework assignment due to an illness or other excused absence, it is up to the student to make up the work. The student has 3 days upon receiving an admit to make up the assignment. All make up work will be given at the end of the class period or can be downloaded from the website. A photocopy of the admit must be stapled to the make up assignment or it will NOT be graded. In class assignments cannot be made up unless you are on a school related activity such as sports team, club activity etc.
- Failure to be prepared on your part does not result in an emergency on mine. Simply not completing an assignment does not qualify you to turn it in late. Ms. Balgobin will not accept stacks of late work at the end of any grading period. If you miss a class, you are responsible for collecting the work, completing it and handing it in within the given time (3 days once an admit is issued).
- All make up exams and quizzes will be done after school on Monday afternoons. Please speak to Ms. Balgobin about setting up the make-up exam for you. **You are responsible to make this appointment!**
- Deadlines are DEADLINES! NO late work will be accepted.

**Email:**
- Please do not email any assignments to Ms. Balgobin without gaining her permission first.
- If you gain Ms. Balgobin’s permission to email an assignment, the contents of the assignments need to be in the body of the email. Ms. Balgobin will NOT OPEN any attachments due to computer viruses and spyware.

**Teacher Assistance:**
- If you would like to meet with me, I am available most weekdays at 2.30pm by appointment only. You can also make an appointment to meet with me during my planning period or after school. All appointments must be made in advance so that I can schedule our meeting accordingly.

**AP COURSE DEMANDS**
It should be understood from the beginning of this course that the expectations of this class are consistent with those of any Advanced Placement course. Students should expect a workload similar to that of a college level course.

*(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)*
This will involve extensive reading every night, active participation in class discussions and activities, taking notes, completing projects, and doing research.

AP SKILLS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Category 1</th>
<th>Skill Category 2</th>
<th>Skill Category 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept Understanding 1</td>
<td>Data Analysis 2</td>
<td>Scientific Investigation 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define, explain, and apply concepts, behavior, theories, and perspectives.</td>
<td>Analyze and interpret quantitative data.</td>
<td>Analyze psychological research studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

One of the goals of this course is to prepare you for the AP examination. The AP grade for college credit will be determined by taking the College Board Exam on Tuesday 12th May, 2020 at 12pm. The test is two hours long and consists of 100 multiple choice questions and two free response questions. A passing score will earn you college credit for the class at most colleges and universities.

UNITS & WEIGHT ON AP EXAM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Exam Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology</td>
<td>10–14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>8–10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3: Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>6–8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4: Learning</td>
<td>7–9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>13–17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 6: Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>7–9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Personality</td>
<td>11–15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 8: Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>12–16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9: Social Psychology</td>
<td>8–10%</td>
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COURSE PLAN

This class conforms to the College Board topics for the Advanced Placement Introductory Psychology Examination. It covers the following topics:

Scientific Foundations of Psychology (10–14%)
1.1 Introducing Psychology
1.2 Research Methods in Psychology
1.3 The Experimental Method
1.4 Selecting a Research Method
1.5 Statistical Analysis in Psychology
1.6 Ethical Guidelines in Psychology

Biological Bases of Behavior (8–10%)
2.1 Interaction of Heredity and Environment
2.2 The Endocrine System
2.3 Overview of the Nervous System and the Neuron

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)
2.4 Neural Firing
2.5 Influence of Drugs on Neural Firing
2.6 The Brain
2.7 Tools for Examining Brain Structure and Function
2.8 The Adaptable Brain
2.9 Sleep and Dreaming

**Sensation and Perception (6–8%)**
3.1 Principles of Sensation
3.2 Principles of Perception
3.3 Visual Anatomy
3.4 Visual Perception
3.5 Auditory Sensation and Perception
3.6 Chemical Senses
3.7 Body Senses

**Learning (7–9%)**
4.1 Introduction to Learning
4.2 Classical Conditioning
4.3 Operant Conditioning
4.4 Social and Cognitive Factors in Learning

**Cognitive Psychology (13–17%)**
5.1 Introduction to Memory
5.2 Encoding
5.3 Storing
5.4 Retrieving
5.5 Forgetting and Memory Distortion
5.6 Biological Bases of Memory
5.7 Introduction to Thinking and Problem Solving
5.8 Biases and Errors in Thinking
5.9 Introduction to Intelligence
5.10 Psychometric Principles and Intelligence Testing
5.11 Components of Language and Language Acquisition

**Developmental Psychology (7–9%)**
6.1 The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood
6.2 Social Development in Childhood
6.3 Cognitive Development in Childhood
6.4 Adolescent Development
6.5 Adulthood and Aging
6.6 Moral Development
6.7 Gender and Sexual Orientation

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)
Motivation, Emotion, and Personality (11–15%)
7.1 Theories of Motivation
7.2 Specific Topics in Motivation
7.3 Theories of Emotion
7.5 Introduction to Personality
7.6 Psychoanalytic Theories of Personality
7.7 Behaviorism and Social Cognitive Theories of Personality
7.8 Humanistic Theories of Personality
7.9 Trait Theories of Personality
7.10 Measuring Personality

Clinical Psychology (12–16%)
8.1 Introduction to Psychological Disorders
8.2 Psychological Perspectives and Etiology of Disorders
8.3 Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders
8.4 Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
8.5 Trauma- and Stressor-Related, Dissociative, and Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders
8.6 Feeding and Eating, Substance and Addictive, and Personality Disorders
8.7 Introduction to Treatment of Psychological Disorders
8.8 Psychological Perspectives and Treatment of Disorders
8.9 Treatment of Disorders from the Biological Perspective
8.10 Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments of Disorders

Social Psychology (8–10%)
9.1 Attribution Theory and Person Perception
9.2 Attitude Formation and Attitude Change
9.3 Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience
9.4 Group Influences on Behavior and Mental Processes
9.5 Bias, Prejudice, and Discrimination
9.6 Altruism and Aggression
9.7 Interpersonal Attraction

FINAL EXAM

REVIEW & PRACTICE
The remaining class time will be spent reviewing and practicing for the AP Psychology Exam.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)
I have read the entire syllabus and I understand the requirements and expectations stated in the syllabus. I promise to follow the rules of the class to the best of my ability. (Return this page to Ms. Balgobin)

Student Name (print): ________________________________

Student Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

Parent Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

When completed, this page will be kept in the student’s folder.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify the following syllabus as she deems necessary)