Teaching Philosophy: I believe in a collaborative learning environment that incorporates students as active participants in the learning process. Therefore, I invite students to personalize and integrate the class content into our class discussions and peer perspective. It is with this intention that the learning experiences of the class will translate into their everyday lives.

Course Description:
The IB Diploma Program psychology course is the systematic study of behavior and mental processes. Since the psychology course examines the interaction of biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behavior, it is well placed in group 3, individuals and societies.

Students undertaking the course can expect to develop an understanding of how psychological knowledge is generated, developed and applied. This will allow them to have a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behavior.

The holistic approach reflected in the curriculum, which sees biological, cognitive and sociocultural analysis being taught in an integrated way ensures that students are able to develop an understanding of what all humans share, as well as the immense diversity of influences on human behavior and mental processes. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are also key considerations of the IB psychology course.

In addition to the three levels of analysis, the IB curriculum requires an in-depth study of another area of psychology. We will study the Human Relationship and Abnormal Psychology options, weaving in the three levels of analysis as we examine the two topics.

You are to be commended for taking on the challenge of a college-level course during the next two years. 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 Textbooks
✓ TBA

COURSE WEBSITE
Miami Beach Schoolwires: http://miamibeachhigh.schoolwires.com//Domain/293
Managebac: https://miamibeach.managebac.com/login

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 to access their materials.

Course Materials
• 3-ring binder OR 3 subject notebooks for notes
• College ruled notebook paper for students using a binder for notes
• Index cards
• 1 pack of dividers for binder for notes, optional
• 1-inch binder with dividers for handouts/articles
• 1 highlighter any color
• 2 blue or black ink pen
CLASS POLICIES

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. On all work submitted for credit by students in my course, the following pledge is either stated or implied. On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment. This course strictly adheres to the IB Honor Code. 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 IB class and/or a failing grade for the assignment, marking period, or course.

Class Preparation, Participation, Attendance, Class work
  o This is NOT a lecture-based course. Psychology is a practical science that naturally encourages personalization and interpretation. The course content is intended to evoke thought that can be manifested through class discussions, group work, activities and dialogue. You are the experts on your own lives. So share your experiences and PARTICIPATE!

Quizzes
  o We will have pop quizzes composing of questions from the homework readings. This will help reinforce keeping up with the readings regularly. Psychological studies have shown that learning small incremental amounts of material highly correlates to increased long-term retention Variable Interval Schedule of Reinforcement.

Tests
  o Tests are designed to prepare you for the IB exams. The first semester, we will focus on the AP curriculum, and therefore the exams will be mostly multiple-choice questions and some free response questions to test your knowledge of the content. The second semester, we will apply the terminology and content we have learned to short answer questions and essay tests that will prepare you for the IB exam.

Final Exam
  o The final exam will be a comprehensive exam that will mainly serve as a final review for both the AP and IB exam. We will discuss the format of this exam as we get closer to the end of the year.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary
IB Exam:
- Higher level
  The IB HL Psychology Exam composes of Paper 1 and Paper 2. Paper 1 is two hours long with two parts. For part A, you will have three mandatory short answer questions SAQ's. For part B of the paper, you will have a choice of one of three essays from the Biological, Cognitive and Sociocultural levels of analysis. Paper 2 is one hour long and is on a separate day. Students are expected to answer two option questions. Students will also have Paper 3(Research Methods) and is 1-hour long.

- Psychology Exam Dates:
  - HL- Paper 1 (Friday May 8th, 2020 - afternoon) and Paper 2 & 3 (Monday May 11th, 2020- morning)

Internal Assessment
- This assessment will give you the opportunity to apply the scientific experimental process to the replication a famous published study in psychology. Results of the experiment will be submitted in a formal APA style written report. Requirements will be discussed in class.

- The Internal Assessment is a requirement by the IB Course Curriculum and is considered Paper 3 which makes up 20% of your IB score for Psychology.

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

- 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.

- Tests are not necessarily graded on a curve.

- 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 absences 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: 3-5 grades
- Quizzes: 3 grades
- Projects: 3-5 grades
- Homework: 1-3 grades

Grading Scale: A 4-3.5 =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

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary
Reading:
- This is a college level course and requires more than simply regurgitation. Thus, it is expected that students will come to class having read the material to be discussed that day and prepared to critically think about it. While much of the text will be discussed in class, some of it will be covered through independent learning. In addition to the text, we may also utilize case studies, article summaries, short answer questions, essays, and other activities that will reinforce course concepts. Failure to read the assigned chapters, 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!
- 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 semester.
- 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 IB Exam at the end of their second year in the program.

Note Taking:
- 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:
- All PowerPoint Lecture notes are available to print or download on Ms. Balgobin’s website:
- Students should have access to the PowerPoint lecture notes either electronically or have a printed copy in class at all times.

Videos:
- 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:
    - National Geographic, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Sybil, Taboo, Thin, Brain Games, 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, Schindler’s List, Bing Bang Theory, Friends, Ted Talks.

Essay Writing:
- The International Baccalaureate programme 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.
- In addition, all work that is turned in for grading needs to be legibly written in blue or black ink pen or typed.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary.
Electronic Devices:
- You are allowed to use some electronic devices (iPads, tablets, laptops, and 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 turned into the parent resource center.
- 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 an 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.
- 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 from 2:30pm via 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.

I am looking forward to a thought-provoking and fun year!

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time, and students will be informed if any changes are made.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary.
Year One: AP Course Plan

CHAPTER 1: The Evolution of Psychology - History and Approaches (2-4%)
- Logic, Philosophy, and History of Science
- Historical Schools: Functionalism vs. Structuralism
- Approaches: Biological, Behavioral, Cognitive, Humanistic, Psychodynamic, Sociocultural, Evolutionary

CHAPTER 2: Research (8-10 %)
- Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research
- Nature of Science Inquiry: Sources of bias and error
- Statistics: Central tendency, variance, significance, correlation
- Ethics in Research: Human participants, animal subjects

CHAPTER 3: Biological Basis of Behavior (8-10%)
- Neural Transmission
- Functional Organization of Nervous System
- Physiological Techniques
- Neuroanatomy
- Endocrine System
- Genetics and Heritability

CHAPTER 4: Sensation and Perception (6-8%)
- Thresholds
- Sensory Mechanisms
- Sensory Adaptation
- Attention
- Perceptual Processes

CHAPTER 5: States of Consciousness (2-4%)
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Hypnosis
- Psychoactive Drug Effects

CHAPTER 6: Learning (7-9%)
- Classical Conditioning: Pavlov, Watson, applications
- Operant Conditioning: Thorndike, Skinner, Bandura, behavior modification
- Cognitive Processes in Learning
- Biological Factors
- Social Learning

CHAPTER 7: Human Memory (8-10%)
- Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

CHAPTER 8: Language and Thought (2-4%)
- Language: Skinner and Chomsky
- Thought
- Problem Solving and Creativity, Decision Making

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary
CHAPTER 9: Intelligence and Psychological Testing (5-7%)
- Heredity/Environment and Intelligence
- Human Diversity
- Extremes of Intelligence: Mental Retardation, Giftedness
- Standardization and Norms
- Reliability and Validity
- Types of Tests
- Ethics and Standards in Testing

END OF FIRST SEMESTER

SECOND SEMESTER
CHAPTER 10: Motivation and Emotion (6-8%)
- Biological Bases
- Theories of Motivation
- Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain
- Social Motives
- Theories of Emotion

CHAPTER 11: Human Development (7-9%)
- Prenatal, Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood
- Research Methods: Longitudinal and cross-sectional studies
- Heredity–Environment Issues
- Nature vs. Nurture (maturation versus learning)
- Sex Roles, Sex Differences
- Influential Theories: Piaget and cognitive development, Freud and psychosocial development Kohlberg and moral development, Gilligan and gender differentiation.

CHAPTER 12: Personality (5-7%)
- Personality Theories and Approaches
- Assessment Techniques
- Growth and Adjustment

CHAPTER 13: Stress and Health (4-6%)
- Nature of Stress
- Major Types of Stress
- Responding to Stress
- Effects of Stress
- Health-Impairing Behaviors

CHAPTER 14: Abnormal Psychology (7-9%)
- Definitions of Abnormality
- Theories of Psychopathology
- Diagnosis of Psychopathology
- Types of Disorders: Anxiety, Somatoform, Mood, Schizophrenic, Organic, Personality, Dissociative

CHAPTER 15: Treatment of Psychological Disorders (5-7%)
- Treatment Approaches
- Modes of Therapy

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary
• Community and Preventive Approaches

**CHAPTER 16: Social Psychology** (8-10%)
• Person Perception, Forming Impressions of others
• Attribution Process: Explaining Behavior
• Interpersonal Attraction: Liking and Loving
• Attitudes: Making Social judgments
• Conformity, Compliance, Obedience
• Group Behavior
• Prejudice

**FINAL EXAM**

**Year Two: IB Extended Topics Course Plan**

**Topic 1:** Research in Psychology  
**Objective:** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of qualitative research methodology

**Topic 2:** Biological Level of Analysis

**Topic 3:** Cognitive Level of Analysis

**Topic 4:** Sociocultural Level of Analysis

**Topic 5:** OPTION1: Abnormal Psychology OR Health

**Topic 6:** OPTION 2: Human Relationships

**Topic 7:** Writing Papers in Psychology: SAQ’s and Essays  
Demonstrate Knowledge using relevant information to demonstrate critical thinking

**Topic 8:** Internal Assessment (IA)  
Replication of a simple experiment  
Guidelines for IA
I have read the entire syllabus and understood 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 Name (print):** ______________________________

**Parent Signature:** ___________________________  **Date:** ___________________________

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

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as deemed necessary