

Course Overview: Psychology



Instructor: Michael Metzler
Cell Phone: 585-455-5433 (for emergencies only!)
e-mail address: mmetzler@mercyhs.com
Web site: TeacherMetzler.com & Google Classroom

Course Description:

This semester elective introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological basis of behavior, memory and learning, personality, psychological disorders, social cognition, and social interaction. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence and effectively communicate ideas.

Major Texts:

Psychology, Spencer Rathus, et. al., Holt McDougal © 2018.
(Digital Codes for online text will be provided. Hard copy available @ Media Center)

Plus additional printed, video & interactive resources.

Areas of Exploration:

Schools of Psychological Thought	Brain & Biology
Psychology Experimental Methods	Learning & Cognition
Sensation & Perception	Motivation & Emotion
Sleep, Dreams & Consciousness	Child & Adolescent Development
Psychological Disorders	Social Psychology

Homework & Assessment:

At Our Lady of Mercy, we believe that homework is an essential part of the learning process. Purposeful homework tasks help students to build independence, develop and refine skills, and build their confidence as learners. At Mercy, homework is assigned to students in an effort to:

- Help students be READY for the learning that will occur in class
- Engage students in PRACTICE needed to develop fluency in important skills
- Guide students in PROCESSING and reviewing new learning
- Provide students with opportunities to REVISE their thinking
- Help students to BUILD their background knowledge

Assessments will be a collection of individual & team work, written work, oral presentations and tests. Individual & team assignments will involve reading, writing, viewing, research, and hands-on/interactive activities. Most reading & viewing assignments will be done outside of class in order to afford students ample classroom time for interactive pursuits including project-based teamwork, demonstrations and exercises.

NOTE: If our in-class interactions are to be successful, each student must take personal responsibility to complete assigned readings/viewings on time. This is a matter of respect for our fellow learners in our learning community.

To that end, students will produce [Cornell Notes](#) for each textbook chapter covered to ensure deeper understanding of concepts we'll explore in our class discussions & interactions. **This is also a highly-effective, research-based learning technique that should serve you well at the college level.** Will such note-taking be a GRIND? Probably. But this kind of deep interaction with a text creates better understanding & skills you'll use for years to come. So, embrace it and build your own strategies (like breaking the work into parts or a series of short sessions?!) to find success.

Late Work - Deadlines:

You must submit all written work on time or risk losing credit. Deadlines matter outside our classroom walls, so they should matter inside our walls, as well. To be an active citizen in a democracy, you must meet the very important DEADLINE of getting to the polls on election day, or your voice will not be heard. If you have your act together, however, there is an exception called an Absentee Ballot, a concept we will discuss in class & incorporate into this policy to assist you.

You must submit all major written work to pass the course.

The new (2021-22) OLM Late Work Policy is as follows:

- Students are expected to submit all assignments by the date established by the teacher.
- Grades on assignments will reflect student understanding of content, however, 20% will be deducted for all assignments submitted late, with the exception of an excused absence.
- No credit will be given for assignments turned in one week past the due date, unless by prior arrangement with the teacher.
- Teachers will work with students to establish deadlines when late work is the result of an excused absence. If work is not completed by the established deadline, the late assignment guidelines will go into effect.
- It is the expectation that the students and parents/guardians will monitor their grades in the online gradebook.
- Teachers will conference with students and parents when there are multiple occurrences of assignments being turned in late.

Grading:

Quarter grades are calculated as a percentage of total points available for the term, with larger assignments garnering more points (e.g. tests & larger written projects typically = 100 points; lighter written work such as daily homework & quizzes typically = 10 to 50 points). So, if there are 1,000 points available and you receive 900, then you have 90%.

FINAL GRADE FORMULA: Quarter 1= 42.5%, Quarter 2=42.5%, Final Project=15%

Final percentages will be converted to Mercy's LETTER grade system each term.

End of Course Learning Goals & Classroom Expectations:

Upon course completion, students should be equipped with a keen understanding of the history & schools of psychological thought, its research methods and applications, and how and why psychology permeates every aspect of human existence.

Let's enjoy this journey together!

The Classroom 3 R's:

Responsibility.....Have it

Respect.....Exhibit it & Earn it

Rip-Roarin' Fun...Enjoy it

(Student signature)

(Parent/Guardian signature)