Introduction to Psychology

Course Overview: What is Introduction to Psychology all about?

The word psychology comes from the Greek words “psyche,” (psykhe) meaning soul, mind, and spirit, and “logos,” meaning reason or explanation. Psychology is an attempt to undertake a scientific study of the human psyche. What makes you you? In this class we will explore the components that make up the human mind (conscious and unconscious), look for and study patterns in human behavior, and discover the processes that drive those patterns. There are many careers in psychology including forensics, clinical psychology, therapy and counseling, research laboratories, and other research field settings. But an understanding of psychology provides a broad foundation in all facets of work and personal life for problem solving, understanding process, ethics, and building relationships.

Units and Activities: What will we be learning about and doing in this course?

Key questions we will explore are:
Do we have free will? Neuroscience, Sensation and Perception, Biological Basis for Behavior
Is intelligence fixed or flexible? Learning and Memory, Growth Mindset
Can you hack your brain? Consciousness, Development
Where is the line between normal and abnormal? Altered States, Psychopathology
Is psychology a science? History and Methods, Biological Basis for Behavior, Development

Classwork will include Socratic Dialogue, writing, lab activities, collaborative explorations (within COVID protocols), guest speakers (Zoom), independent choice projects, quizzes.

Standards: What knowledge and skills will I gain by the end of this course?

This course will assess the knowledge and skills students build in key Anchor Standards and Content Standards.

Anchor Standards: Students will have multiple opportunities to show their proficiency in each Anchor Standard. “I can...” statements follow as descriptors for each Anchor Standard that will be assessed.
Sourcing: I can... gather, evaluate, integrate, and cite information and evidence presented in diverse formats; evaluate various explanations in order to make informed decisions to solve problems

Taking Action: I can... assess and present adaptations of arguments and explanations for individual and collective action

Arguing and Explaining: I can... construct arguments by evaluating and using evidence from multiple sources

Speaking and Listening: I can... initiate and participate in a range of collaborative discussions; make strategic use of digital media to enhance understanding

Content Standards: This course builds student knowledge and skills using specific guidance from the National Standards for Psychology High School Curricula published by the American Psychological Association. The assessed course standards will be categorized using the Anchor Standards used by our school district.

Assessment Types:
Three types of assessments will be used to determine if you have gained the necessary knowledge and skills of this course: Formative Assessments, Summative Assessments, and Habits of Work for Learning. The grade in this course will be based on Formative & Summative Scores (95%) and HOWLs (5%). For more info about assessment types, scoring, and overall grade calculation, please click here.

Communication:
How Do I Know My Grades?
- On Summative Assessments, a teacher will provide both a 4-point grade and a letter grade.
- You can monitor your progress in the following ways:
  - By reading feedback and scoring returned to students on summative assessments
  - By monitoring the scores and Overall Course Mastery Grade in the Parent/Student portal on JumpRope
  - By monitoring the grades sent home quarterly through report cards

Where Can I Find This Syllabus during the School Year?
- This syllabus will be available on the school website in each subject's department tab once the school year is up and running.

How Do I See What's Due?
- Summative assessment due dates and handouts are posted to the blue "Upcoming Assessment" section of the JumpRope Parent/Student Portal on or before the day they are assigned to students. We also use Google Classroom (GC) as a platform to hand out electronic documents, communicate due dates, and collect work from students. GC does not house grades.
How Do I See What's Past Due?

- If a student is missing an assessment, it will be listed in the red “Missing Assessment” section of the JumpRope Parent/Student Portal along with any attachments.

Materials:
A netbook or other computer or electronic device will be used in class regularly, and earbuds or headphones may be needed occasionally. (Cell phone use will be limited to academic purposes.) Every student needs a binder or notebook to organize papers and written work.

Schoolwide Procedures:
Please see the Student Handbook for Procedures and Policies related to: Due dates and deadlines, extra credit, retaking assessments, and turnaround time for grade entry.

Personal Mobile Devices: This class will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook.

Classroom Expectations:
Students are expected to arrive with open minds, be prepared to challenge their own thinking, practice challenging others thoughtfully and respectfully, and engage in all class activities and discussions.