**Ms. Elizabeth Gifford**

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**AP Psychology Syllabus**

**Texts:**

1. *Myer’s Psychology for AP*
2. *5 Steps to a 5*

**Course Description**: The central question addressed in AP Psychology is “How do psychologists think?” The psychologist David Myers wrote that to think as a psychologist, one must learn to “restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding” (Sternberg 1997). Whether students choose to pursue a career related to psychology or one in some entirely different field, this habit of mind will be of great value. The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings.

 • Students learn about some of the explorations and discoveries made by psychologists over the past century.

 • Students assess some of the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives.

 • Most important, students come to an appreciation of how psychologists think (or at least an appreciation of the kind of critical analysis that psychologists espouse and hope to model in their words and actions).

**Required Supplies:**

Grading Scale:

* 90% - 100% = A
* 89% – 80% = B
* 79% – 70% = C
* 69% – 60% = D
* 59% & below = F
* Binder (preferably 2 in)
* 1 package of divider tabs for binder
* Loose leaf paper (no spiral notebooks)
* Black/blue pens
* Highlighters
* Post it tabs

**Topics of Study:**

1. Scope, History, and Methodology
2. Behaviorism
3. Neuroscience
4. Sensation and Perception
5. Developmental Psychology
6. VI. Intelligence and Psychological Testing
7. VII. Consciousness, Memory, and Language
8. Motivation and Emotions
9. IX. Personality
10. Stress and Health
11. Abnormal Psychology
12. Social Psychology
13. Learning

**Course Methods of Assessment:**

Students are primarily assessed through chapter exams and reading quizzes. Chapter exams consist of multiple choice, identify, open response questions and essay. Daily quizzes will relate to assigned text and/or assigned primary source documents. Students are also required to complete DBQs, compare and contrast, argumentative, persuasive, and change over time essays. Students will also take a mid-term and final exam. All assignments/exams will be assessed promptly and placed on database for student/parent grade evaluation. Students will receive these assignments and due dates with proficient time to complete and return when due. I will use remind, google classroom, and our database to ensure students and parents are aware of all assignments/exams. See my late assignment policy below for additional information. Students will also be expected to:

* Read articles and documents in order to analyze and better understand Psychology.
* Perform research skills needed for college classes.
* Write essays in order to develop proficiency and fluency as a skill.
* Present information to classmates to demonstrate knowledge of topics covered.

**Teaching Strategies**

Teaching strategies for this course include lecture through power point presentations, student based presentations, document/photo/cartoon analysis, and student led discussion. There is also an emphasis on independent reading and analysis of text and primary source materials, both written and visual. Students are provided a study guide prior to each chapter.

**Class Policies & Procedures:**

* Come into class prepared. This requires you have all your supplies, book, and any homework assigned that is due.
* Be in your seat with your binder and book on desk before the tardy bell rings.
* Do not ask to leave the room (bathroom, nurse, locker, et…) once you enter the classroom unless it is an emergency and you have teacher approval.
* Please be respectful of your classmates and their educational journey. This requires respect across the board while in the classroom. Disrespectful behavior towards a student or teacher is not tolerated.
* I expect each and every student to come to class ready to open their minds and give 100% effort daily. As I was taught, “If you are going to do something, do it right!”
* Please do not hi-light or write in the textbooks; however, if you have purchased your own supplemental books please underline, hi-light, write notes in the margin, et…. You get my drift.
* All school rules in the student handbook will be applied in our classroom.

**Don’t forget to sign up for Remind!**

**Instructions are provided below….**



**Other Information:**

* You must read and understand the assigned material in order to succeed in this class.
* Complete sentences and paragraphs are expected on written responses.
* Productive, mature class discussion is required.
* Be prepared for reading quizzes!!