

Course Description ~ AICE Psychology

Mr. MacDonald

Room 1103

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Content and Expectations

AICE Psychology is designed to provide the student with a deep appreciation of the human mind through an exploration of the ways in which it processes and coordinates behavior. Students will be provided with an introduction to psychological concepts, theories, research findings, and applications. The course will focus on four key approaches in psychology: biological, cognitive, learning, and social. After students have developed and understood the four key approaches to psychology, students will apply their psychological knowledge to solving problems, analyzing and evaluating cultural, social, and ethical implications of psychology, and applying learned concepts to practical problems of everyday life.

Students will also read, analyze, discuss, research, and write about twelve (12) case studies that underpin the four approaches to psychology. These case studies are foundational to the AICE Cambridge Exam, so they will be highly emphasized throughout the course. The issues and debates included in these course studies include: the application of psychology to everyday life, individual and situational explanations, nature vs. nurture, the use of children in psychological research, and the use of animals in psychological research.

AICE Psychology is an elective class for students who seek to develop a comprehensive knowledge of psychology and who are motivated to develop their skills of analysis, interpretation, application, and evaluation. At the end of the course, students will take a written AICE Cambridge examination consisting of a combination of short answers, scenario-based questions, methodological questions, and analyzing cores studies. Students are presented with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of psychology through their writing. Passing scores on this examination offer the opportunity for college credit at all Virginia colleges and universities.

What supplies do I need for this class?

You will need a new or "like new" 3-ring binder with five (5) dividers; you cannot have work for any other classes in your binder for this class. **You will be required to have your notebook and a writing utensil (pen or mechanical pencil preferred) in class every day.** On test days, you will need to bring a No. 2 pencil. The teacher will provide colored pencils, scissors, rulers, glue, etc. for classroom activities, but if you have your own supplies it will be more convenient for you. Tissues and hand sanitizer are not provided by the school, so students are encouraged to bring their own.

Grades:

Letter grades are determined according to Prince William County policy:

A: 90 – 100	C: 70 - 76
B+: 87 - 89	D+: 67 - 69
B: 80 - 86	D: 60 - 66
C+: 77 - 79	F: 59 and below

Assessments and assignments in this class will be weighted as follows:

Tests and Writing Assessments	40%
Quizzes/Daily Assessments	30%
Projects and Formal Writing	30%

What are the expectations for classroom behavior?

Some policies are set by the Prince William County Public Schools School Board or Brentsville's Administration and must be followed at all times. The following list addresses the policies most relevant to day-to-day classroom operations. It is by no means complete; students and parents should refer to the Prince William County Public Schools Code of Student Conduct for a complete description of rules and regulations.

- Respect—Students must be respectful to the teacher and classmates at all times. Students are to remain in their seat at all times during instruction or discussion.
- Dress Code—Students who are not in compliance with the dress code will be sent to administration.
- Food and Drink- Absolutely no food or drink in the classroom. Exceptions may be made for water and medical reasons.
- Electronic Devices, including Cell Phones— Electronic devices that are visible and/or ring or otherwise disrupt class will be confiscated and turned in to administration in accordance with school policy.
- Bathroom— Students are not permitted to use the restroom during instructional time except in the case of an emergency. Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class.
- Tardiness—Students must be at their desk ready to begin class when the bell rings. If you are out of your seat when the bell rings you are tardy. Consequences for unexcused lateness to class are set by the county (verbal warning, verbal warning / parent contact, detention, referral to administration).
- Honor Code—**Students must take pride in their own work and demonstrate their own intelligence and effort.** Students who copy work from another student or allow another student to copy their own work will receive a zero for the assignment and be assigned detention. Students who plagiarize published work from the Internet or any other source will receive a zero for the assignment and be referred to administration.

What do all the checks mean?

Assignment grades (see above for percentage of total grade) will be given using the following scale; any grade lower than a 70 will be scored with a number and a comment as to why the score is lower.

Symbol	Grade
✓ +	100
✓	90
✓ -	80
✓ X	70

Can I turn work in late?

In order to receive full credit for an assignment, it must be turned in on or before the due date. If a student comes to class having not completed the homework, he or she will not be able to participate in the higher level analytical activities designed for the day.

Assignments turned in after the due date will have points deducted (approximately 10%, or one letter grade, per day).

Completing work missed during an excused absence is the student's responsibility. After an excused absence, the student must see Mr. MacDonald (before or after class, before or after school) to ensure that all missed assignments, including homework and class work, quizzes/tests are completed. Announcements, assignments, and important dates will also be posted to the class page on the school website.

Students have two class periods to complete all make-up work (one day to get the assignment and one day to complete the assignment) for each excused absence.

In the event of an absence, students are expected to turn in the work from the day missed, and may be given an alternative assignment to compensate for the class work missed. **Students will only be allowed to take the unit test when the teacher is satisfied that all of the necessary preparatory work has been completed.**

Outside activities (sports, clubs, jobs, etc.) are not an excuse for failing to complete assignments. If a student is having difficulty completing assignments, he/she should discuss this problem with Mr. MacDonald before it adversely affects his/her grade.

Final Note:

Students and Parents/Guardians please sign below signifying that you have read and understand the above information. Also, if you could please provide a phone number where you can be reached during the day and an email address where I can send updates when required. If you have any questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ask. You can call me before or after school or email me at macdonjl@pwcs.edu

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Name _____

Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name _____

Work Phone _____

Email Address _____