

Psychology Syllabus

1. **Course Overview:**

Content of this elective, one-semester course in Psychology considers the development of the individual and the personality. The course is divided into six units. The study of Psychology is based on a historical framework and relies on effective collection and analysis of data. Students study topics such as theories of human development, personality, motivation, and learning. Students are provided opportunities to acquire, develop, and master specific skills. These skills will be developed through a variety of assignments and activities such as research skills, critical thinking and analytical reasoning, and use of primary and secondary sources.

2. **Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the academic integrity unit objectives
 - Understand the dynamics of the relationships between self and others to be a contributing member of society
 - Understand that beliefs, decisions, and actions have consequences
 - Understand behavioral, social learning, and cognitive perspectives of motivation to describe his or her role and impact on economic systems
 - Understand the influence of sensory perceptions on the shaping of individual beliefs and attitudes
 - Understand the relationship between biology and behavior
 - Understand the basic principles of tests and measurements
 - Understand the history of the field of psychology
 - Understand the processes of theory development and validation
 - Understand the dynamic relationship between self and one's environment
 - Understand behavioral, social, and cognitive perspectives of human learning
 - Understand the role of culture in forming the foundation and orienting framework for individuals and social behavior
 - Understand personality development theories, including the applications and limitations
 - Apply critical thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology
 - Communicate in written, oral and visual forms
 - Use problem-solving and decision-making skills
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3. **Class Policies:**

Attendance/Assignments:

- Make-up work is to be completed in a timely manner. A student has the same number of days to complete make-up work as he/she missed from school (Example: Absent 2 days: you have 2 days to turn in or make up work).
- Check **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** for missing assignments.

Yearbook – 2nd period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 3rd period
Newspaper – 4th period (B lunch)
Journalism – 6th period
Psychology / Sociology – 7th period
Conference – 1st and 5th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

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- If you know you are missing an assignment, but you do not see it attached to Google Classroom, there may be copies in the folders in the hanging red pockets; come see me for assistance.
- It is ***your responsibility*** to consult with me at an appropriate time (before or after school) – NOT AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
- **I will rarely remind you to turn in your makeup work; you are responsible.**
- Make-up tests/quizzes will be given during pre-arranged times, by appointment only.
- Feel free to communicate with me via email if you are absent, or know you will be absent in order to receive your assignments.

Multimedia Policy:

Computers are for classroom assignment use only and not for other non-school related business. Any misuse of computer equipment will result in an automatic exclusion from computer privileges in the classroom for the remainder of the current deadline cycle. Students' grades will reflect any work that is not submitted.

Using multimedia for digital communication (i.e., instant messaging, social networking, etc.) or gaming of any kind is prohibited from the classroom unless directed otherwise by the adviser.

Email Etiquette:

When communicating with teachers and/or other adults via email, you are to use professional etiquette at **ALL TIMES**.

Proper email etiquette is how we maintain a respectful, appropriate and professional tone. When communicating with adults, you as the student, are **NOT** communicating with your best buds or boyfriend/girlfriend. Your messages should be constructed accordingly.

This means the following:

1. Use correct grammar
2. Use correct spelling
3. Proofread BEFORE sending
4. Address the reader with correct titles (Mr, Mrs, Dr.)
5. Use a proper salutation (Dear, Good Afternoon, Hello, Good Evening)
6. Correctly spell the reader's name (if you don't know it, look it up!)
7. Identify oneself within the first line or two
8. Be clear about your needs or requests
9. ALWAYS write a subject line
10. Double-check any attachments
11. NEVER "Reply All," unless it is something the entire group needs to know
12. Always reply within 24 hours
13. Don't use all capital letters (no need to SHOUT)
14. Avoid using exclamation marks... unless it's an actual emergency
15. Avoid negativity; if you have a complaint, express it in a constructive and professional manner
16. Don't forget a proper closing (Sincerely, Best Regards, Thank You)

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17. Never Ever make any obscene or vulgar remarks
18. Never use any profanity

The Key thing to remember is this—**always be professional AND appropriate**. Ask yourself if this text or email can be considered offensive or inappropriate in any way whatsoever BEFORE SENDING.

Basic Classroom Rules:

Read your Student Handbook. All Plano East Senior High School rules MUST be followed.

- Be in your seat and working on the Bell Ringer **before** the tardy bell rings.
 - Sit up in class. Be attentive.
 - No sleeping. Those who violate this rule are subject to possible humiliation—you've been warned (insert evil laugh here). 😊
 - No food or drink in class, except water... unless given approval by your teacher.
 - All cell phones and/or electronic devices should be silent **and** put away
 - You may use the hanging pockets for your device, especially if you cannot trust yourself
 - If students abuse this cell phone privilege, more stringent rules will be applied and enforced, including the possible confiscation of said devices
 - During a test, all cell phones must be turned off and placed in hanging pockets with no exceptions
 - **YOU** must take responsibility for your decisions, actions, and future.
 - If you need tutoring/assistance, I am here every day (except FRIDAYS) after school until at least 4:45 (often later).
 - I can also come in early before school if you arrange it with me ahead of time.
 - You may **NOT** see me during lunch, unless approved for a specific occasion.
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4. Grading:

Formative Grading (40%):

- Daily Assignments / short articles
- Quizzes
- Bell Ringers

Summative Grading (60%):

- Tests
- Formal Written Assignments (Articles, Articles, Articles, and Scripts)
- In-Depth Feature Piece (involves research)

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Summative Assignments:

All major graded assignments will be accepted as follows (MLA Guidelines):

- They must be typed (double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with standard one-inch margins)
 - ***Some assignments may be neatly hand-written, at teacher's discretion
- Any assignment of two or more pages must be stapled together
- Proper heading must be used (in upper **Left-Hand** corner):

○ Your Name	Ex: John Doe
○ My Name	Mr. Birnbaum
○ Class—period #	Journalism-6 th Pd
○ Date	October 31 st , 2024
- Assignments turned in between 9:00 a.m. –4:30 p.m. on the due date: **NO PENALTY**. All assignments are due on the specified date, unless you are absent.
 - After 4:15 p.m. on due date:
 - **One day late = Highest possible grade is a 90%**
 - **Two days late = 70%**

Retest Policy:

If a student scores a **69 or below** on an exam, they have the option of taking a retest

- The student will be given one week to attend a tutorial session and take the retest
- The teacher will determine the date/time of tutorials and retest
- The student **must come to a tutorial session** with questions
- If a student fails to attend the tutorial, they will not be able to take the retest.
- If the student does not show up on the assigned time and date for the retest, they forfeit their right to retest.
- **The highest grade possible for a retest is a 70.**

Cheating and Plagiarism:

- If caught plagiarizing **ANY WORK**, you will receive a **“0”** for that assignment and your parents/guardians will be notified.
 - If you plagiarized **another student's assignment**, **both you and that student** will receive a **“0.”**
 - If you are caught cheating during a test, you will receive a **“0,”** and your parents/guardians will be notified.
 - Your teacher will utilize plagiarism check tools throughout the course.
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5. **Mr. Birnbaum's Background:**

As your instructor, I look forward to sharing my wealth of knowledge and skill set with you, no matter what your initial abilities may be. I have spent 12 years teaching various aspects of journalism, photojournalism, yearbook, English and Social Studies. Prior to my time as an educator, I spent five years as a publicist, and seven years working as a news writer for CNN in Atlanta.

I will make every effort possible to keep in contact with parents/guardians, especially if I have specific concerns about student progress. If at any time there are questions or concerns, please email me. My email address is mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

6. **Materials:**

****ALL SUPPLIES NEEDED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 19th****

(See me *after class* if this is an issue)

You must be prepared for class and have the following with you on a DAILY basis:

- A College-ruled, spiral (**NOT shorter composition book**)
- Your Chromebook (fully charged)
- A pen or pencil

● The following are *recommended, but NOT* required:

- A 3-ring binder
 - A box of blue or black pens
 - A 3-ring pencil pouch (to store your pencils and pens—what a concept!)
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7. **Syllabus Acknowledgement Form:**

In order to be a successful psychology student for the Fall Semester of the 2024-2025 school year, students must complete the syllabus acknowledgement form in the Google Form (the link below is available to click on in Google Classroom) with their legal guardian(s) and submit it to the teacher.

<https://forms.gle/ZK7TofVrPydCWAUM9>