SPS210-SPS211, PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

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Course Description:

The psychology course is designed to be an introduction into the science of psychology. It is a strong academic survey of the essentials of psychology from the physiological facts and classical theories to current trends. The course content will include the general academic overview of psychology, including its vocabulary, research methods and important individuals in the area of psychology. It will also present the general methods of scientific investigation as they are applied to human behavior. It is a broad academic survey of problems, methods, facts and principles. The course content will give students the opportunity to examine and reflect upon their beliefs, attitudes and feelings about themselves and their ideas of what people are like and why they behave as they do. Also included are topics such as: personality, intellectual abilities and adjustment, learning skills, perception, emotions, motivation, personality disorders, thinking and biological influences on behavior.

Course Goals:

1. Identify historical backgrounds and approaches to psychology.
2. Read contemporary news articles relating to everyday psychology issues.
3. Identify different psychological approaches to therapy and research.
4. Describe the theories of personality.
5. Describe the neurological systems of the body.
6. Analyze sensation and perception.
7. Describe child development and the various theories regarding social influences.
8. Analyze learning, memory and intelligence.
9. Identify the various psychological disorders.
10. Describe the major motives of life: love, food, social approval and work.
11. Analyze one's emotions, stress and mental health.
Student Responsibility:

1. **Class Participation:** Each of you will be expected to take part in discussions on your own and/or when called upon. Your willingness and ability to contribute to our discussions will be considered as part of your grade. Oral presentations will be conducted by each student.

2. **Homework:** Both short-term assignments and long-term projects and research will require your attention at home. Work will be completed prior to the start of class on its given due date. **Late work will not be accepted.**

3. **Attendance:** Attendance is vital! Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed by asking the instructor and/or classmate. You have the same number of days to turn in work as the number of days for which you have **excused** absences. Many activities and experiences cannot be repeated for an individual who misses class. Poor attendance will affect your grade.

Grading Policy:

Grades reflect the percentage of points earned of the total points possible. The sum of points earned on notebooks, writing assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, activities and participation divided by the number of available points will determine your overall grade. Keep all papers pertaining to your grade. It is your responsibility to prove any discrepancies with your grade. **No late work will be accepted.** Grades will be earned by the following percentages:

90-100% = A  
80-89% = B  
70-79% = C  
60-69% = D  
Below 60% = F

Materials:

*A box of colored pencils
*Highlighter
*Lined paper
*Blue and/or black pens and #2 pencils.
*A ruler
Behavior Expectations:

*Follow all school rules.
*Be on time, prepared to work.
*Everyone will be treated with respect.
*No one will be allowed to disrupt the learning process of anyone else.
*No use of any type of electronics in class (cellphones, music players, game devices, etc.)
*Appropriate behavior and language is expected.
*Lying, cheating, plagiarism or any form of dishonesty will not be tolerated.
*No eating in class.
*If you are SUSPENDED, you will NOT be allowed to make-up any work.

Infractions that will warrant a referral and disciplinary action:

*Use of cellphone and any other electronic devices.
*Third tardy.
*Disrupting the class.
*Eating food in class.
(Policy subject to additions)

We, the student and the guardian/parent, have read the syllabus and agree to its terms and policies to have a successful school year in Psychology. (Perez, T-10)