



“PSYCHOLOGY”

Mr. Palm
SOCIAL STUDIES
DUBUQUE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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I have an open door policy; feel free to stop in during non-class time. I am usually available in Rm. A-126 at 7:00 a.m. until 7:35 a.m. except on Fridays due to meetings. I will also be in my classroom after school from 2:20pm until 2:30pm as well. I also have third period free so if that would work for you just let me know in advance.

Instruction Materials: “Thinking About Psychology” The Science of Mind and Behavior
2nd ed. By Blair-Broeker & Ernst – Worth Publishing

- To access the Worth “Thinking About Psychology” companion site:
<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/thinkingaboutpsych2e>

Course Overview:

PSYCHOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND OUR MENTAL PROCESSES. The study of psychology will introduce you to possible explanations about why we do what we do. In an attempt to understand our own behavior and thinking, we will also gain knowledge and understanding of the behavior of others. Special emphasis will be placed on what qualities constitute a healthy and balanced personality. This course is designed to be both an introduction to students who plan to continue their education and also to provide practical information that can be used by anyone in everyday life.

Class Activities:

This class will consist of a variety of activities including, but not limited to, note taking, lecture, class discussion, cooperative activities, group and individual projects, as well as research, essay writing and utilizing video components.

1.) Tardy Expectations: Tardiness can be disruptive to class, and can show a lack of respect to everyone. If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you are tardy. You will get two freebies, if after your second tardy you are still late for class you will receive a 15 minute detention to be served before 7:40 or after 2:20 in my classroom, or arranged by the AP Office, plus your parents and the AP Office will be contacted and you will be set up on a “Credit Preservation Contract”

****It should also be noted that I will implement the tardy policy of our school to the fullest extent, so it will be in your best interest to be in the classroom before the bell rings.**

2.) Classroom Behavior Expectations and Participation Guidelines:

- **It will be required that you are respectful to yourself, your fellow peers and your teacher.**
- **It is expected that you will be fully engaged during class time. If you are tired you will need to get your sleep somewhere else. I will not allow you to mentally check out during class time. I will do everything I can to keep you engaged. Come to class willing and ready to learn.**
- **Bring proper materials to class each day (text, notebook, folder, pen and pencil)**
- **Electronics: Cell Phones: I own one and think they are wonderful, and they are allowed at Senior, but they are not to be on, or in sight in the classroom. If you have a cellphone out during a test/quiz you place yourself in jeopardy of possibly receiving an automatic "ZERO" on that test/quiz. Also, those caught using cell phones during class time will have them confiscated per school policy and may arrange to have them picked up at the AP office.**
- **Using your MP3 during class time will not be allowed.**
- **Please dispose of any liter in the proper bin or wastebasket.**
- **Remain seated until the dismissal bell rings. No Hovering by the door**
- ****I will allow bottled water in the classroom, however in accordance with the school district's wellness policy, ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IS ALLOWED. Also no soda pop, juice, etc. will be allowed as well. (BOTTLED WATER-ONLY)**
- **CLASS PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS: Contribute to class discussions. Pay attention to lectures, audio/video, and guest speakers with a heads up style and attitude. Work on class-related assignments.**
- **If you must leave the room during class time, you must have a pass signed by me.**

Attend Class:

Grades and attendance seem to go hand in hand. A certain amount of material that is NOT in the textbook will be presented in class. A number of exam questions will come from material presented exclusively in class lectures or handouts. If you are in the building but did not attend class (field trip for example), stop by to find out what was covered in class that day and pick up any materials.

Make up work policy:

Turn in all assignments on time. This gives you a better chance of receiving a higher grade! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE UP YOUR MISSING WORK, I cannot always meet with you during actual class time. All makeup work assigned following an excused absence will be completed by the arranged deadlines or Zero credit will be received. Also, if you do not have an assignment completed by the deadline assigned, you should check with me to see what you need to do to make up the missed work. I will take late work TWO days past the original due date and the highest

grade earned on that will be up to (50%) credit. A weekend (Saturday & Sunday) will also count as two days. If there are extenuating circumstances please discuss them with me. All make-up exams will be given in Rm. B-133 during your free period & when supervision is available. Failure to make-up an exam within three class days of the test date will result in a zero.

**** You will also be required to follow the behavior expectations as outlined in the Student Planner.**

Handouts:

This course may be at times supplemented with additional materials – readings, articles, guide sheets, etc. **It would be best to buy a folder or binder to keep all of these materials organized.**

Read, Study, and Take Notes Actively:

To comprehend textbook/lecture material, or discussion sessions, you must read and listen actively. You must work hard to relate new information to what you already know. And you will be surprised – even in a class you have never taken before, you will already know a lot of the information. Passively writing down material or what I say in class will not help you learn or understand the material. It is your responsibility as a student to stay mentally active during class.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There may be opportunities for extra credit throughout the Year. I will let you know!!

GRADING EXPECTATIONS:

Grades will be determined by assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects. Additional work may include power point projects, research/computer work, take-home exams, book reports, movie reviews, research projects, class presentations and essays. Note: Some assignments may be graded, some may not.

Grades are weighted: Classwork/Homework 45% Quizzes & Tests 55%

The grading scale is as follows:

90% = A 80% = B 70% = C 60% = D 59% = failure for the course

IF YOU EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS, SEEK SOLUTIONS EARLY!

For example, if you do poorly on an assignment, exam or project, see me at that time. **If I can help you or point you in the right direction, I certainly will, but you have to let me know first. If you have any questions, concerns, or criticisms, please see me so we can discuss how to correct the problem.** I will not use class time to discuss these issues, but I am always willing to meet with you either before/after school or during my prep time.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You will receive a zero for any of the following: having a cell phone out during any kind of exam (Quiz, Test, etc...), cheating on an exam, copying or letting someone copy assignments, turning in work that is not your own, or plagiarism. It is better to fail class content rather than fail the test of your character.

This Syllabus is Tentative and Subject to Change.

STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS:

This course is based on American Psychological Association Standards for the teaching of high school psychology accessed at apa.org and the DCSD social studies standards and benchmarks available on district web site. www.dubuque.k12.ia.us

- ✚ You need to get this sheet signed by your parent(s)/guardian by **FRIDAY** (it is worth points)

Psychology—Mr. Palm

Please sign and return this portion as acknowledgment of reading and understanding the expectations for this class. Parent/guardian and the student must sign and in doing so are accepting the requirements, goals, and activities needed to succeed in PSYCHOLOGY.

Student's Printed Name

Student's Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date