

2008 Psychology/Economics Syllabus

The goal of psychology is to teach you how and why you behave and think in regards to stimulus and situations. You will gain a deeper insight into behavior and also gain practical information on the field of psychology. This is also the first time in which we will explore economics. This will be a three week period in which students will learn the basics of economics so that they will better be able to understand the world they are living in. Basic consumer principals will also be covered.

Grading: This class will use a point system to figure out your grade. Each assignment is worth a set number of points. You should be able to keep track of your grade in this way. I will usually let you know once a week what your grade is. If your grade is sufficiently low I will be in contact with your parents to try to find the best way to help you succeed. Parents may access your grade at anytime from home. Grades are put online the same day the assignment is collected or by the next day.

Current Events: We will be discussing current events on a daily basis in class. Students are encouraged to bring in articles that interest them or that they wish to discuss in class. Students are expected to watch some news at night or look for news via the internet. It is important for students to know and understand what is going on in the world around them and how it affects their daily life.

Special Projects: You will be given a combination of group and individual projects during this course. The big projects include a paper on an infamous serial killer or assassin. Other smaller group assignments will be given per chapter. You will be expected to read a pop psychology book during the first few months of this class that will be used towards your research paper. You may get this book at any library or order it from another school using AccessPA.

Homework: Most homework will consist of study guides, section reviews and worksheets. Study guides will be worth 10 points while worksheets and section reviews will be worth 5 points each. Homework can be turned in one day late for half credit. No homework will be accepted if it is more than one day late.

Homework Passes: Homework passes will only be accepted for assignments worth 5 points. They must be turned in the day of the assignment and must be for the proper quarter. Homework passes may not be used for study guides. There will be no quiz passes used in this class.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be given during the course but can only be done by students that have completed at least 90% of the coursework. It is unfair for a student to be able to do extra credit if they failed to do the actual work.

Tests and Quizzes: Tests will be given at the end of each chapter. They will be worth in the range of 85-140 points each. These tests will consist of multiple choice, true/false and essays. Quizzes will be worth around 10 points each and will be based on prior reading done for class or material discussed in class. You are expected to take the test or quiz the next day after your absence if you knew about the assignment. If you were absent for a few days, you will have three days to make up a test or turn your assignment in. If you do not have an excused absence for the day of a test or presentation, you will receive a 0. (school policy)

Absences: You are responsible for any assignments you miss while absent. You should come and see me the first day back to check on what you have missed. It is not my responsibility to chase after you to make up an assignment or test.

Psychology Journal: You will need to buy a journal to use for daily writings in this class. I will do spot checks on this journal and will collect it at the end of every 9 weeks. Because of these spot checks, you will need to bring this journal to class every day. Failure to have the journal may result in a loss of 5 points.

Projects and Experiments: Since this course has many of the components of a science course, you will be working on a great many in class experiments and activities. It is your responsibility to attempt to make up any missed activities if possible or write a two page paper in which you interview students who have participated in the activity.

Case Studies/Articles: You are responsible for reading and answering the questions for fourteen (14) case studies or articles. You have options on which articles and case studies you choose to do. There is an additional paper that will explain this more fully. You may not take these papers home. You will have to work on them during class or during E period. I will be checking for correctness on each question. You will not be able to answer these questions with one word answers. You may turn these case studies in early. The total points for this assignment is 120. If you turn them in one day late it is worth only 75 points. Two days late is 50 points and anything more than two days late is a 0. Do not copy answers from other students on these cases. If there is a question of copying, you stand the chance of getting a 0 for the assignment.