Ms Lockhart’s AP Psychology Syllabus

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**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of psychology and introduces the ethics and the science methodology of the field. Students will be exposed to the principles and phenomena associated with psychology. They will also learn about the methods psychologists use to explore the processes involved in normal and abnormal perceptions, thoughts, and feelings.

***Essential Question: What influences human behavior?***

***Course Objectives:***

By the end of the course, the student will:

1. Define psychology and explain what makes it a science.
2. Describe the steps of the scientific method.
3. Define the role of theory in scientific inquiry and describe hypothesis formation.
4. Describe the various methods of research and explain the strengths and weaknesses of each.
5. Describe major theories and research findings related to learning and memory, motivation and emotions, abnormal behavior, states of consciousness, and other selected areas of psychology (e.g., social psychology, legal psychology, biological basis of behavior).
6. Apply terminology used by psychologists as it relates to course content.
7. Demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking skills by:
8. Identifying problems in research.
9. Recognizing fallacies in reasoning.
10. Discussing and evaluating controversies within psychology (e.g., nature-nurture issue, definition of intelligence, forced psychotherapy).
11. Explaining how principles discussed in class can be utilized in dealing with personal, social, and political issues.
12. Demonstrate skills related to the use of science and technology by:
13. Discussing scientific concepts and methods as used in psychology.
14. Discussing the consequences of science and technology on the behavior of humans.
15. Demonstrate skills for functioning in social institutions by:
    * 1. Responding to questions regarding the factors influencing behavior in social situations.
      2. Discussing major issues in social behavior as related to the structure and processes of groups and the diversity of culture.

***Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:***

Since this is an A*dvanced Placement* course, the achievements of high school students are compared statistically to the achievements of college students in an introductory college psychology course. The validity of the Advanced Placement program rests on a positive correlation between the two student groups. Doing well in an advanced placement course eases the transition to college level expectations and your high school work can be used towards college credit and/or waivers as defined by the college you attend.

***The AP Psychology Examination:***

The AP Psychology Examination includes a 70-minute 100 question multiple-choice section that accounts for two-thirds of the student's exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section made up of two questions, which accounts for one-third of the student's exam grade. Details about the exam can easily be accessed at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). All students are required to take the AP exam.

**Textbook and Resources:**

Students are required to use the “Myers’ Psychology for AP” textbook. Students will be charged for lost or damaged textbooks.

There are many other resources available that I encourage students to use. There are other AP Psychology review books, some of which can be borrowed from my personal library. Students may also reference other textbooks or online resources, as long as any material used in their work is cited properly. At times I will provide students with readings or assignments that come from other sources.

Students are also encouraged to purchase the study guide to accompany the textbook. This can be purchased from the school for $25 and includes reading guides & outlines and multiple practice test questions with answers. Because answers are provided in this book, it is not wise to use this resource unless you are committed to not simply copying down the answers. If students are interested in the book but do not want to purchase it, they can borrow a book and write all responses on separate paper. If the book is damaged or written in, however, students will be charged $25.

**Academic Expectations**

I expect students to give 100% effort both while in class and on EVERY assignment. All assigned work needs to be completed on time. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and speak to me or a classmate if they are having difficulty with anything in the course. Students will be allowed to revise writing assignments and re-take assessments to earn a higher score; however, I will deny this privilege if I feel students have not given their best effort on the original assessment. Students must attend a study session with me or demonstrate other effort to study and improve before re-submitting any assessment or re-taking a test. **Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class.** Plagiarism is a serious matter equivalent to criminal fraud or theft.  If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment and will face the consequences listed in the Student Handbook.

The AP Psychology course is designed to prepare students for a college level class. To be successful in this class, students will need to organize their time well and take responsibility for their own learning. Students need to work on mastering concepts, not simply completing assignments. The end goal is to learn the material so that it can be applied to the AP test and everyday life! (Psychology is EVERYWHERE!) Students will need to spend time studying flashcards, reviewing notes and outlines, and answering practice questions if they hope to do will in this class. Much of this will not be explicitly assigned or graded. Tutorials or additional practice will be assigned if students are not showing mastery. Students are encouraged to set up study groups with their peers or attend study sessions with me to ensure mastery and retention of the material.

**Course Assessments & Assignments**

**Quizzes**

Students will have two types of quizzes throughout the unit. The first is based on “Level-Up” quizzes. The purpose of these quizzes is to build strong study habits by encouraging daily studying. Each day, students will have the first 5 min of class to take “Level-Up” quizzes (7 min on block days). They may take as many quizzes as they can complete in this time period. A test grade will be assigned based on the number of quizzes passed for the unit. Scoring criteria will be given at the beginning of each unit. Unless told otherwise, students have until the LAST day of the unit to take quizzes. **There are no make-ups after this point**.

In addition, I will also assign Exit Tickets, which are a form of online quiz. Sometimes these will be taken in class, and sometimes they will be assigned for homework. Exit Ticket grades will also be included in the quiz grade.

*Mastery on Exit Tickets and Level-Up quizzes will be used to determine homework checks and tutorial attendance.*

**Unit Tests:**

At the end of each unit, students will be given a timed unit test. These will be shortened versions of the timed AP exam and will only cover material learned in that unit. Typically, these tests will contain 25 multiple choice questions and 3-4 free response points and will take about half of a class period.

**Quarter & Semester Exams:**

Students will have an in-class test at the end of each quarter. These tests will be TIMED in order to prepare students for the AP Psychology test in May. Students will have 35 min to answer 50 multiple choice questions, and 25 minutes to answer one long or two shorter free response question(s). 2/3 of the test grade will be determined by the multiple choice questions and 1/3 will be determined by the short answer questions. On test days, students need to be prepared to start IMMEDIATELY in order to have the full 60 min of test time. Quarter and semester exams will be CUMULATIVE. Assigned readings, online simulations, or other outside work may appear on the test even if it has not been discussed explicitly in class*.*

**Homework & Classwork:**

Students MUST keep up with the daily homework and classwork in order to succeed in the class and on the AP test in the spring. Homework counts for only a small part of the overall grade, but it will have a HUGE impact on test and exam scores, which count for the majority of students’ total grades. Homework will usually include readings from the textbook or other sources, outlines/notes, flashcards, and worksheets or online explorations or simulations.

There is an online resource included with the textbook that has quizzes, worksheets, and simulations. The website is: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersAP1e/default.asp>. EVERY student is required to register at this site. Students will occasionally be assigned online quizzes or simulations. Students will need to enter my e-mail address ([alicia.greenwald@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.greenwald@gmail.com)) and the scores will automatically be sent to me. If I do not receive the scores, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Please log into the site and create your log-in ASAP so you can notify me if you have any issues with the website.

**Test Retakes:**

Students have up to **two weeks** to retake the test from the time a test is returned. There are no retakes of semester exams.

**Projects & Writing Assignments**

Students will occasionally be assigned larger projects. These will vary depending on the unit and the topics being discussed. Also, students may be given writing assignments that count as a major grade and not a regular homework assignment. These could include sample free response questions from the AP test or synthesis papers asking students to reflect on the unit. There will also be a major research project/paper at the end of the school year after the AP exam is completed.

**Grading Scale**

1. Level-Up Quizzes 20%

2. Unit Tests 25%

3. Quarter Exam 10%

4. Semester Exam 25%

5. Homework & Classwork 10%

6. Projects & Writing Assignments 10%

**Grading Total**

97-100 % = A+

93-96 % = A

90-92% = A-

87-89% = B+

83-86 % = B

80-82 % = B-

77-79 % = C+

73-76 % = C

70-72 % = C-

0-69 % = F

**Supplies Needed**

* A **1 inch binder** with at least 3 tabs (labels: Course Documents, Current Unit, Previous Unit) and LOOSELEAF paper (spiral notebook paper is NOT allowed)
* Four different colored pens to take color-coded notes. Students may use colored pencils to take notes if they prefer.
* **AT HOME:** Myers AP Psychology textbook – COVERED!
* **AT HOME:** A **3 inch binder** with 14 tabs (one for each major unit)
* **Optional:** Highlighters, post-its, index cards

**I expect students to bring these supplies with them to class every day unless told otherwise. The 1 inch binder needs to be organized and carry ALL notes, handouts, and loose readings from the current and previous unit. Students will keep a large binder at home so they do not need to carry ALL of their notes through the entire year. I will check these binders at each quarter exam to ensure they are organized and up-to-date. Students will need these binders to reference previous material when reviewing for quarter, semester, and AP exams. Students do not need to bring their textbook to class. If students want to reference a textbook on campus, they will need to bring their own from home.**

**Absences & Late Work**

Please reference your student handbook for the school policies on absences and late work. In the case of an excused absence, students are responsible for turning in the work on the day they return unless they have spoken with me to make other arrangements. **You are 100% responsible for your make-up work.**  I have all handouts and assignments available upon request; however, I will not chase you down to give you your assignments. **Late daily work will not be accepted.** Major assignment grades will be dropped 5% for each school day that the assignment is late, **not to exceed two weeks.**

**Behavior Expectations**

Students are expected to behave like respectful, college-bound young adults at all times. I will enforce all of the school expectations and discipline policies as outlined in the student handbook.

**Honor Code**

I expect all students to abide by the KSJC Honor Code. The Honor Code declares, “As a member of the KIPP San Jose Collegiate community, I pledge my full and steadfast support to the Honor Code and I promise neither to lie, to cheat, nor to steal.

**Parent Contact**

Parents/Guardians and students can contact me using the contact information provided at the top of my syllabus. I am available by phone Monday-Thursday from 7am-8:30pm, Friday from 7am-6pm, and Saturday-Sunday from 10am-5pm. Please feel free to call for any reason; I love to hear from parents! Also, parents/guardians are always welcome to visit my classroom or meet with me after school. If you would like to observe a class or arrange a meeting you must contact

me in advance to set up an appointment.

Please sign below to indicate that you and your guardian have read and agreed to the terms listed on the AP Psychology course syllabus. Students must return this form by Friday August 29th.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact #’s to reach Parent/Guardian(s): (please list at least one)

Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home/Work/Cell?: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home/Work/Cell?: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home/Work/Cell?: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best e-mail address to reach Parent/Guardian(s) (please list at least one):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_