

# Psychology

## Zoo Academy

Omaha Public Schools/Papillion La Vista Community Schools

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**Schoology Access Code:**  
**Term:** Fall 2017  
**Meeting Time:** Online



### I. **Class Description:**

Psychology looks at the way that human's minds operate and how our minds perceive the world around them. Psychology seeks to build an understanding of how the mind builds its own perception of itself, constructs the identity of an individual, and helps place the individual within the conscious and unconscious world. In this semester long online course students will be working through an examination of how Psychologists study the role of the individual and group dynamics, how individuals learn and develop, how individuals work as part of a larger whole, and finally how the mind seeks to interpret its own reality. Through studying Psychology students will have a better understanding of the way the mind works and develop their ability to think critically.

### II. **Content Objectives:**

- a. Theory: Through examining the varied perspectives and the different ways that psychologists examine the mind, individuals, and groups students will become familiar with the ways that psychology can be studied.
- b. Psychological Thinking: Students will examine the development of scientific attitudes and skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, and an appreciation for scientific methodology
- c. Research: An awareness that psychological knowledge, like all scientific knowledge, evolves rapidly as new discoveries are made
- d. Application: An ability to relate psychological knowledge to everyday life
- e. Identity: Students will gain an understanding of the factors that go into the formulation of personal development in terms of self-awareness, cognitive ability, and feelings of connections.

### III. **Readings and Study Materials:**

Blair-Broeker, Charles T., *Thinking about Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Worth Publishing, New York, 2013

Additional Readings and resources will be used throughout the course of the semester

#### **IV. Unit Overviews:**

a. Unit I – Principles of Psychology (3 Weeks)

In this introductory unit students will look at the very base definitions of psychology and the different ways that it can be understood. Specific emphasis will be placed on the contributions of influential psychologists who have shaped the field of Psychology.

b. Unit II – Psychological Research Methods (2 Weeks)

The second unit will focus on the different ways in which psychologists actually do studies and collect information. Through using the scientific method psychologists are able to come up with theories and test their hypothesis in order to come up with new understandings.

c. Unit III – Cognition and Learning (4 Weeks)

In this unit students will examine the different ways in which humans learn and what happens to the brain in the formation of memory and learning. Throughout the different stages of life humans' brains function differently as they develop then degenerate. We will examine the different ways to condition the brain to learn, and the motivations for doing so.

d. Unit IV – The Development of Self (4 Weeks)

In this unit students will look at the formation of personal identities. Special emphasis will be on the development and display of emotions, our personalities, and ideas on morality. We will be looking at how humans develop throughout different stages of their life, and how this identity of self changes over time.

e. Unit V – Behavioral and Abstract Psychology (5 Weeks)

Unit V covers the group dynamics and how humans interact as part of a larger whole. Within a large society humans are constantly looking to express their individuality, but also how they fit within that society. Students will also examine how individuals conform to societal norms and then how it is viewed when people stray away from those norms. Through examining some of the more in depth understandings in the field of psychology students will gain a better understanding of the complexities of the human mind and the deeper levels at which psychology tries to understand the human thought process. Through looking at theories like consciousness students will gain an appreciation of the theoretical approach of psychology.

\*This schedule is tentative and subject to change

#### **V. Omaha Public Schools Evaluation**

Omaha Public Schools students' coursework and assessments are judged based on the level of student learning from "below basic" to "advanced." This course will provide multiple opportunities to achieve at the "proficient" to "advanced" levels. Students are evaluated based on a proficiency scale or project rubric.

A final score for each reporting topic/standard will be determined using a trend score. A trend score looks at the progression of learning throughout the unit of study or the course and puts greater emphasis on the increased achievement at the end of learning. All coursework and assessments are important for student learning and should be completed to provide evidence of learning. If multiple assignments or major assessments (final exam) are not completed, zeros will be given and the grade for the topic/standard will be determined by averaging.

At the end of a grading period, trended scores for each reporting topic/standard will be averaged using assigned folder weights. This weighted average is converted to a letter grade using this grading scale for the 2016-2017 school year.

Proficiency scales for this course are available upon request (teacher will identify location such as parent portal, teacher website, attached, etc.)

## VI. Grading Procedures

- a. Redoing/Revising Coursework: Students are allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit during that unit of study. Scores for student work after retaking, revising or redoing will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework or assessment but will replace the original student score.
- b. Late Coursework: Students are expected to complete missing coursework. Late coursework is accepted for full credit until the end of the unit. Once late coursework is turned in, the zero will be replaced with the score earned by the student. Late work completed during the unit of study will not result in a reduction in grade. Work that is not turned in during the unit of study will receive a score of zero.

Missing Coursework: Work not turned in at all will receive a score of M. An M is weighted the same as a zero in the gradebook. Students have until the end of the unit to hand in any missing assignments. Accommodations due to extended illnesses are to be arranged with the teacher.

## VII. Grading Scales

Omaha Public Schools	Papillion La Vista Community Schools
A = 3.51 – 4.00	A = 100% - 90%
A- = 3.01 – 3.50	B = 89% - 80%
B = 2.51 – 3.00	C = 79% - 70%
B- = 2.01 – 2.50	D = 69% – 60%
C = 1.51 – 2.00	F = 59% - 0%
D = 0.76 - 1.50	
F = 0.00 – 0.75	

## VIII. Course Requirements

- a. Daily Warm-Ups: Each day of the class students will be required to do daily warm-up questions from the class forum that can be found at the bottom of the course website or by using the following link <http://www.mrtredinnick.com/psychology-forum>. These daily forums will have questions to help connect the materials that will be covered in the day's lesson to the students' own personal pre-conceptions or ideas.
- b. Assignments: All assignments can be completed and handed in a variety of ways. They be completed by printing off the assignments from the course website and handing in physical copies to the teacher. Students can complete assignments and submit them digitally using the assignment form at the bottom of the course website. Or students can see the teacher for physical copies of the assignments that can then be handed in physically or digitally.
- c. Tests/Quizzes: Students will have the option of completing tests and quizzes either on Schoology or in-person tests that can be arranged with the instructor. Tests can only be completed in a limited timeframe. If there is a conflict for the student then an alternate arrangement for when the test will be taken needs to be arranged with the instructor before the test window opens. If a student is unable to complete the test during the testing window due to illness or other factors it is the

student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor to come up with alternate arrangements for the test.

**IX. Academic Dishonesty/Cheating**

Any students caught cheating, or attempting to cheat, will be given an automatic zero on the assignment. Further action may be taken depending on the situation.

**X. Assessments and Weights**

<b>Assessment Type</b>	<b>Category Weight (%)</b> OPS/PAPLV
<b>Summative Assessment:</b> assessments/assignments are major end of learning unit tests or projects, (e.g., a research paper, an oral report with a power point, science fair project). Summative assignments are graded for accuracy. Summative assignments assess the student's progress on grade level standards.	65% / 70%
<b>Formative Assessment:</b> assessments/assignments are done for learning. They are minor assignments, (e.g., a three paragraph essay, written responses to guiding questions over an assigned reading, completion of a comparison contrast matrix). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Descriptive feedback provides the student with the necessary information to improve their learning. Formative work is at the student's instructional level and/or grade level standards.	35% / 30%

Multipliers: All assignments will be the standard x1 multiplier unless otherwise stated. Assignments will be listed in the gradebook with labeling as either a formative or summative assignment, and any special multiplier will be explained in the explanation of the assignment. All end of unit examinations will be counted as a Summative Assessment with a x2 multiplier.

**XI. Targeted Learning Standards**

**Standard 01:** Define the science of psychology, describe its history, and identify the methods for examining behavior and mental processes.

**Standard 02:** Understand how biology contributes to our behavior and mental processes.

**Standard 03:** Understand the differences between learned vs. unlearned behavior, and understand the principles that underlie how humans remember, and retrieve information.

**Standard 04:** Explain how personality is shaped positively and negatively by internal and external forces.