

Introduction and Course Syllabus: CCS Psychology 2009-2010

Welcome to Psychology! This class will be designed to give you an overall knowledge of the science and art of psychology. The purpose of this class is not to explore the deepest depths of each subfield of psychology, but rather to expose you to the sheer breadth of psychology. Over the course of this year, we will study:

- I. Logic, philosophy, and the history of science
- II. Biological basis of behavior
- III. Sensation and perception
- IV. States of consciousness
- V. Learning
- VI. Cognition
- VII. Motivation and Emotion
- VIII. Developmental Psychology
- IX. Personality
- X. Testing and individual differences
- XI. Abnormal psychology
- XII. Treatment of psychological disorders
- XIII. Social Psychology

I hope that this class will add to your understanding about those around you, and much more about yourself – that as beings created in the image of God, we are incredibly and wonderfully complex. I hope that this class will also facilitate you in wise decision-making for the future,

In order to successfully complete this course, you will need to keep a few things in mind:

- 1) Last-minute cramming is never encouraged! Review your notes the same day you wrote them up, as well as the day after! That way, the day before the test your studying will go much easier on you.
- 2) You may learn some facts that surprise you. You may hear viewpoints that differ greatly from your own. Listen with an open mind, then do your mental homework and investigate these things on your own. Just because a famous scientist (or your highly esteemed teacher) says something, does not mean that you should take it as gospel truth! You are allowed and encouraged to discuss with your classmates (called **socialization**), and even with your teacher, within an atmosphere of mutual respect. It is never alright to berate and demean those who disagree with you, respectfully or otherwise. Consequences for this are swift and severe.
- 3) Be an active learner; not only should you check up on the facts and worldviews presented, but you should also think carefully about the material as it applies to your own life. It is more mental work, but you will find that you will enjoy it more when you understand its relevance to you! While you are not encouraged to diagnose yourself or your classmates (especially after the abnormal psychology unit), try to observe the psychological concepts in the environment around you!
- 4) Most of all, learning in general, and psychology in particular, **should be fun**. Don't let it be drudgery!

Course Description

This class is designed to be a comprehensive course that introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of both human beings and animals. You will be exposed to psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. You will also learn about the ethics and methods of psychological research and practice. Although enrollment in this course is open to any 12th grade students, all students are expected to possess strong language, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Classes will consist of lecture, demonstrations, small group discussions, and student presentations. The goal of this course is to prepare students for college psychology courses, and to increase the students' life-long ability to analyze all aspects of their social, moral and educational development personally by applying the concepts learned in class.

Instructor information

Mr. Joshua Pong

Email: Joshuapong@ccs-rams.org

AIM SN: Mr Pong CCS

Office hours: Every afternoon 3:15-4:00

All else by appointment

Required Textbooks

Myers, David G. *Psychology, Eighth Edition, in Modules*. Worth Publishers @ 2007 (student edition)

-ISBN-10: 0716779277

-ISBN-13: 978-0716779278

Optional study guide – ISBN-10: 0716783088

- ISBN-13: 978-0716783084

Spiral-bound handbook (?)

Materials

8.5" x 11" loose-leaf binder paper, college rule

Pens and highlighters

Index cards (whatever size is useful to you)

Notebooks

Grading

Quarter grades:

Exam and essays – 40%

Quizzes, homework, in-class assignments – 60%

Semester grades:

First quarter – 45%

Second quarter – 45%

Final Exam – 10%

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
100-97	A+	79-77	C+
96-93	A	76-73	C
92-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
		59- 0	F

Class Administration

1) Rules:

- i. Encourage and enhance your classmates' ability to learn the material
- ii. Respect your classmates, your teacher, the facilities, and yourself
 - a. Do not talk while I talk, and I will not talk while you talk.
 - b. No degrading behavior or language

2) Disciplinary Policy:

- 1st violation – Verbal warning
- 2nd Violation – 15 minute writing assignment
- 3rd Violation – Disciplinary referral to administration

3) Attendance: Attendance is required. Students must be in their seat and appropriately prepared for class when the bell rings and remain on task for the entire class period. **In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to get notes and/or make up assignments.**

4) Homework: There will be homework assigned every unit, consisting of reading, research requirements, and journals prior to a classroom activity or discussion. This will come mainly from your textbooks, but you may be expected to read other handouts or internet assignments prior to class discussion as well. Reading will be assessed by quizzes (announced or otherwise) and in-class writing assignments.

5) Late/Missing Assignments: Because the year is extremely busy for many of you, especially for the seniors, I *do not penalize for late work*. This means that you may turn in an assignment up to the end of the quarter, when all the grades are due. However, I do consider it courtesy that you turn it in to me by the recommended due date, and I give you fair warning: *near the end of the quarter, any assignments not yet turned in will be awarded 25% until they are turned in – and if you and everyone else waits till the last day to give their assignments to me, each assignment will likely stay at 25% because I could not get to them.*

6) Note-taking: A spiral notebook or binder is highly recommended for note-taking, although neither is required. It is also recommended that your notebook/binder is highly organized, to maximize efficiency. However, your organization and neatness will not be checked or graded.

7) Participation: All students are expected to be involved in discussions and activities, ask questions, and otherwise contribute to the class. This includes bringing the required materials (textbook, notebook, pens, and flashcards) and being ready to learn at the start of each class. During group discussions in class, you are expected to offer your opinions thoughtfully and be respectful of others' opinions.

- 8) Papers: Students will complete several writing assignments in this course. These include, but are not limited to, informal responses, short research analyses, free response essay practice, and a research project. Again, it is expected that you have at least a grasp of the basics of writing.
- 9) Exams: For every major unit, there will be a test that covers that unit, and several other units that we will designate beforehand. There is one final per semester; both are cumulative for that corresponding semester. Each exam will have a variety of questions: multiple choice, fill-ins, T/F, and free-response. **All major unit tests and exams will be announced at least a week in advance.** Quizzes may be announced in advance or not.

Honor Code

Plagiarism is using someone else's work and research without giving them credit and instead claiming it as your own. Cheating is any other activity considered illegal during tests and exams, including but not limited to: copying, interpersonal communication (written or verbal), and concealed cheat sheets. **Plagiarism, whether inadvertent or purposeful, and cheating, whether perceived or actual, will be dealt with severely: plagiarized work will receive 0%. Cheating on quiz/exams/tests will result in a 0%, and all the homework leading up to said quiz/test/exam will also be considered at 0%.**

For example, cheating on a quiz will not only result in a 0% for the quiz, but also a 0% for all the homework covered in the quiz. If you cheat in a major unit test, you will receive 0% for the test, and also a 0% for all the homework or all the quizzes covered in the major unit test, whichever gives *the larger penalty*. Further, regardless of the importance of the test, parental notification and office referral will result. In essence, the more important the test you cheat on, the harder the consequences will be! **So please do not cheat!!!**

Grace and Extra Credit

Because the Christian life depends entirely on God's goodwill and mercy, grace will be practiced within this class. It will be handed out on a case-by-case basis, in a confidential manner. If you desire grace, such as an extra project, extra credit, or an extension, you must contact your instructor or visit during office hours and present your case. **Any grace given is at the discretion of the instructor, and is not guaranteed** (but he will do his best to help you succeed in this class in a fair manner).

I have read, understood, accepted, and retained this syllabus for the 2010-2011 school year.

Signature: _____

Date: _____