



Psychology – Syllabus

Rapid City High School

RCAS Policies/Procedures

Learners will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, please visit the [Student Handbooks](#) section of the RCAS district website.

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The course will emphasize the mind and its development, principles of learning, memory, sensation and perception, personality theories, emotion and stress, states of consciousness, motivation, and abnormal behavior.

Psychology: 0.5 Credit

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Learners will define psychology as a discipline and identify its goals as a science.
2. Learners will differentiate scientific and non-scientific approaches to knowledge.
3. Learners will explain the value of both basic and applied psychological research with human and non-human animals.
4. Learners will identify careers individuals can pursue in psychological science.
5. Learners will identify ways individuals can use psychological science to be life ready, career ready, and college ready.

[Adapted from the American Psychological Association's *National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula*]

Course Expectations

Be Respectful- Making safe choices by being kind to self and others to empower all.

Be Present- Being here and being aware of yourself and your surroundings focused on the here and now.

Be Courageous- Taking appropriate risks, persevering, doing what is right, even if it is uncomfortable or unpopular.

Grading



All learners must reach the "Meets Mastery" level for each Course Learning Outcome. This requires the learner to fully participate in all aspects of the course. A learner must provide evidence of mastery through feedback and reflection/growth.

So what does this really look like in the Psychology course?

Learners are presented with modules based around six pillars of psychology. During each module, learners will be asked to show mastery of competency in that unit. Learners will do this by demonstrating multiple points of proficiency (providing evidence).

Learner mastery will be evaluated on a scale. The key to mastery learning is that learners can always demonstrate growth. If a learner did poorly the first time, they can always try again and improve their level.

Learners must reach the "Meets Mastery" level for every Course Learning Outcome in order to pass the class. That means that a learner must complete each Course Learning Outcome. This is not like other courses where a learner can skip sections and still pass. Learners are not done with the course until they have completed all the checks and demonstrated mastery.

	Exceeds Mastery
	Meets Mastery
	Near Mastery
	Well Below Mastery

Instructional Resources

All instructional resources are presented on Canvas.

Textbook

Visualizing Psychology 3E

ISBN: 978-1-118-38806-8

Published by Wiley

Attendance Expectations

All students are to adhere to Rapid City High School attendance policies. Tardy arrivals will be recorded in accordance with school policy.

Communication

Communication with the supervising teacher is key to success. Learners are encouraged to communicate professionally, directly, and often with their supervising teacher.