

Psychology Syllabus

RCAS Policies/Procedures

Students will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, see handbook.

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.

Grading

Points shall be awarded for assignments, quizzes, and tests. Points will be awarded and collected cumulatively through the semester.

Textbook

- Textbooks:
 - Visualizing Psychology (Carpenter and Huffman)
 - AP Psychology (Myers)

Essential Questions

[National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula](#)

- Standard Area: Perspectives in Psychological Science
 - Is psychology a science?
 - What questions can psychologists answer better than other scientists?
- Standard Area: Research Methods, Measurement, and Statistics
 - How can the scientific method help us draw more informed conclusions?
 - Why is critical thinking important to science?
- Standards Area: Biological Bases of Behavior (Biological Perspective)
 - Why is studying biology important to understanding psychology?
 - How would you explain the nature-nurture issue to someone who has not studied psychology?
- Standard Area: Social Interactions and Sociocultural Diversity (Sociocultural Perspective)
 - How do we explain people's behavior?

- How do we explain our own behavior?
- Standard Area: Personality (Cognition Perspective)
 - What is a personality trait?
 - How do we assess traits?

Essential Learning Intentions

- Standard Area: Perspectives in Psychological Science
 - Is psychology a science?
 - I can define psychology.
 - I can explain how psychology is used to understand human behavior and human mental processes.
 - What questions can psychologists answer better than other scientists?
 - I can cite various famous psychology studies that support psychology as a science.
 - I can analyze human behavior and their mental processes by using the various psychological perspectives.
- Standard Area: Research Methods, Measurement, and Statistics
 - How can the scientific method help us draw more informed conclusions?
 - I can describe the various scientific methods that are used to measure psychology.
 - I can analyze different psychology studies using the scientific methods to draw scientific conclusions.
 - Why is critical thinking important to science?
 - I can examine different psychology studies to make scientific conclusions.
 - I can apply critical thinking when studying different psychological topics.
- Standards Area: Biological Bases of Behavior (Biological Perspective)
 - Why is studying biology important to understanding psychology?
 - I can describe the body and brain components that affect our behavior and mental abilities.
 - I can analyze how the body and brain components affect our behavior and mental abilities.
 - How would you explain the nature-nurture issue to someone who has not studied psychology?
 - I can explain the differences between nature and nurture.
 - I can explain the biological bases that relate to nature.
 - I can explain the sociocultural influences that relate to nurture.

- Standard Area: Social Interactions and Sociocultural Diversity (Sociocultural Perspective)
 - How do we explain people's behavior?
 - I can examine the sociocultural factors affecting human behavior and human mental processing.
 - I can analyze human traits.
 - How do we explain our own behavior?
 - I can describe and analyze my disposition.
 - I can describe and analyze my various sociocultural situations that affect my life.
- Standard Area: Personality (Cognition Perspective)
 - What is a personality trait?
 - I can explain different perspectives/approaches that describe to human trait.
 - I can evaluate the biological and situational influences that affect human traits.
 - How do we assess traits?
 - I can describe different personality assessment techniques.
 - I can evaluate the validity of different personality assessment techniques.