

Psychology Syllabus
 Ms. Lahey
lahey1@mdusd.org
 Room 35

In this introductory psychology class you will be learning about the basics of human behavior and why humans behave the way they do. We will explore memory, thoughts, altered states of consciousness and what motivates us each day. We will also discover the impact that thinking, language, attitudes, social influence, stress, and emotion has on individuals and larger groups. Lastly, we will understand different fields of study in psychology and the important influence these trained professionals have in the study of the human mind and behavior.

Classroom Expectations and Rules:

1. **Respect everyone.** This means respect for me and your peers. Listen when others are speaking and be respectful in your comments, questions, and insights. I will not accept any disrespect at any time during class or otherwise.
2. **Take responsibility for your work.** Stay on task in class. Do homework, classwork, tests, projects etc. to the best of your ability and turn it in on time.

Beginning of Class Procedures:

1. At the beginning of class you need to be quietly in your seat.
2. Quietly take out all necessary materials (binder, pens etc).
3. Begin quietly working on your opener.

Countdowns:

I will use a countdown method starting with 3 to get your attention and to establish silence within the room. If you are talking after 3...2...1...0 expect your participation grade to be marked down for the day.

End of Period:

At the end of the period I expect the room to be as clean or cleaner than it was when you first walked in. No food or drinks are allowed. Water is the only exception. Stay seated and wait quietly to be dismissed. The bell does not dismiss you.

Overall Grade Breakdown:

Classwork, Homework, Participation	30%
Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Presentations, Essays, Speeches	50%
Final	20%

Absent and Late Work:

You will have one day to make up absent work for every day you have an excused absence. There is an absent binder in the front of the classroom which outlines what openers, assignments, activities etc. you have missed. It is your responsibility to read the absent binder/google classroom and collect any worksheets that you missed located in the bin above the absent binder. If you are absent for a test please come in the following Wednesday at lunch to make it up. If you are absent on a day of a major assignment please email me the assignment and bring it in the next day.

Late work will not be accepted. The only exception to this rule is if it is a major project, essay etc. Every day it is late a letter grade is marked down. Late work can also be made up during lunch on Wednesdays.

Homework/Binders/Psychology Book:

You will need to have a separate binder devoted to Psychology. You need to have four tabs. One titled "Openers", "Notes", "Binder Check", and "Graded Work." On test days I will be collecting your binders to do binder checks. All openers and homework must be completed on the day of binder checks. Bring your psychology book everyday unless I tell you otherwise.

I will be giving you a lot of time in class to complete binder check assignments. During this allotted class time you are expected to work on your homework. At the end of each period I will be stamping work to hold you accountable. Depending on how much time is given will determine how much of the assignment I expect you to finish. If your work is not stamped than you will not receive full credit for that assignment when it is turned in for your binder check.

Opener:

Almost every day will begin with an opener. The opener will be related to what we are currently studying in class. Instructions will vary for each opener. Make sure to write openers in your "Openers" section because they will need to be turned in. You need to write the question and the answer to each opener. Openers should be in complete sentences. Make sure to date each opener as well.

Opener time is not time to finish up your homework from the previous night. If I see that this is occurring I will throw away your homework and you will receive no credit.

Opener time is also the time to pass up your homework. When passing up your homework do it quietly and pass it to the front row. I will come around to collect it.

Participation:

Each quarter you will be rewarded for participation. Your participation will be out of 60 points but will start at 45 points. Earning or losing points will depend on the following: preparedness for class, verbal participation, efficiently and effectively working on

classwork, acting appropriately, coming on time, not using cell phones/electronics, not overusing hall pass/bathroom privileges, being respectful to others etc.

Hall Passes:

You will be able to use hall passes a total of 3 times a semester in my class. These hall passes can be used for either the bathroom or to go to your locker. If you exceed the 3 hall pass limit and need to use one it will affect your participation grade. Please ask me at appropriate times to use a hall pass. Only one student at a time can leave the classroom. Please grab the hall pass hanging by the door and sign out before you leave the classroom.

Electronics:

Cell phones, iPods, and other electronics are not allowed to be used during class unless I give you permission to use them. Please ask for permission if you are unsure if cellphones or electronics can be used during class. See below for electronic use consequences.

Tardy Policy:

The following tardy policy is the school wide tardy policy that will apply to my class. It is tracked each week and starts new each quarter:

5th tardy: student received a 1-hour detention, parent contact.

10th tardy: student is assigned Saturday School, parent contact.

15th tardy: student is assigned Saturday School, parent contact, behavioral contract.

20th tardy: student is placed on Activity Suspension, no attendance at after school events.

25th: tardy: student suspension out of school and require a Principal's conference.

Consequences:

If classroom procedures or behavioral expectations aren't met the following consequences will be put to use:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Individual conference after school or class
3. Parent Contact
4. Referral to Office; behavior plan for continued misbehavior

*Subject to change depending on severity of action.

I have read and discussed this class syllabus with a parent/guardian and agree with Ms. Lahey's behavioral, procedural, and class expectations.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____