

Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2025

Mrs. Emily Wheeler (w/Mrs. Wooley for Maternity Leave)

3rd & 5th Periods

Helena High School

Rm. 20

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“The brain is wider than the sky...”

Brief Overview

Welcome students and parents! This course will delve into the mysteries of the mind. Offering a brief overview of the expansive study of psychology, we will attempt to have some fun along the way. Through energetic discussions, readings, immersive activities, and comprehensive projects; we will explore some of the major theories of modern psychology.

Class participation, regular attendance, and hands-on projects are also incredibly important to this course.

Students will learn...

what elements of psychology classify it as a science.

how the seven major schools of psychology approach the study.

the brain's structures and functions.

the intricate relationship between biology and experience in psychology.

Students will demonstrate...

the ability to use print and online sources to answer questions and complete research.

the skill to analyze scientific studies and their applicability to general theories.

the expertise to compile several sources to express a relevant point of view.

the articulation of opinions and facts through written and verbal mediums.

the completion of a high-quality research and demonstration project.

Required Materials

School Supplies: Students are expected to bring all necessary school supplies to class every day, unless otherwise stated. This includes a notebook/binder/folder that is specifically designated for Psychology, pens/pencils, **FULLY CHARGED** Chromebook (or personal computer), and an agenda (or similar organizational tool). Artistic supplies (colored pencils, markers) will be needed when requested ahead of time.

Technology and TEAMS: This is necessary to view schedule updates, view deadlines, class announcements, collaborate with classmates, make-up absent work, and complete projects. It is your responsibility as a student to regularly check TEAMS for updates. If you do not have this access, please come speak with me.

Policies and Procedures

Rules:

1. Be Responsible:

Examples include **coming with the appropriate materials**, notebook, **pens/pencils**, project materials, **on-time**, ready to learn, work completed, putting your name on papers, checking TEAMS regularly, messaging with concerns, **BEING in CHARGE of YOUR OWN LEARNING...**

2. Be Safe:

Helping keep the classroom **clean & orderly**, following all posted safety instructions, surfing the internet with safe practices...

3. Be Respectful:

Examples include **cleaning-up after yourself**, asking permission before borrowing/touching possessions, **following directions** (the first time), **staying off electronic devices when instructed**, **avoiding talking (or other distracting behaviors)** when the teacher is instructing...

4. Be Caring:

Examples include respecting others' opinions, including everyone in group activities and discussions, working with partners/groups assigned easily and readily, **avoiding foul or inappropriate language**, greeting each day with as much enthusiasm and cheer as possible, **under no circumstances engaging in bullying or degrading behaviors...**

Cell Phones/Electronics: Cell phones, headphones, and other electronics are **NOT** permitted at any time after the first 3 minutes or before the last minute of class per the Social Studies Department policy. Cell phones will be placed in a designated, secure location and used for attendance purposes. If you use, hide, or misrepresent your cell phone/electronics it will be confiscated to the office per school policy.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

- No matter the assignment, all students are expected to turn in their own work.
- Unauthorized collaboration, allowing someone else to copy your work, giving or receiving answers to a test, and using Artificial Intelligence in any manner not explicitly permitted or authorized is cheating. All typed responses will be submitted through TurnItIn.com.
- Copying, or even rephrasing someone else's words without citing your sources is plagiarism.
- Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy in the Student Handbook for definitions and consequences of plagiarism and cheating.
- This is an extremely important point that can't be emphasized enough: **Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and the consequences are severe.**

Tardies

According to handbook policy, tardies are accumulated per Semester:

- *Tardies #1-3* will be recorded via PowerSchool
- *Tardy #4* will result in a 30-min. Lunch detention
- *Tardy #5* will result in a 30-min. Lunch detention and home communication of the behavior
- *Tardies #6+* will result in administrative attention which could result in a parent conference, suspension, and/or removal from the course

Late Work & Absences: These are general guidelines and are subject to teacher discretion:

- Points will be deducted for assignments not submitted by the due date: 10% per day until the end of the Unit; 50% after the end of the Unit until the Quarter deadline.
- Zeros will be entered for assignments and assessments not submitted. In most cases, you may still complete the work, but points will be deducted for it being late.

It is your responsibility to contact me when you are absent to receive work and check understanding. Excused absences will receive 2 additional days to complete work. Assignments or quizzes that were scheduled before your absence are due or expected to be taken the day you return.

E-Mail/message me if you have unexpected absences that conflict with large projects. I am happy to accommodate, especially if you become sick or have extenuating circumstances.

Instructor imposed Consequences

- *Disrespect & Insubordination:* (inappropriate/degrading/threatening language or posturing, eye-rolling, inability to follow instructions, talking over, etc.) towards the instructor will not be tolerated and an apology will be expected before work will be graded.
- *Not using classtime wisely, Refusal to work, Sleeping in class:* If behavior continues after problem-solving discussion, the instructor reserves the right to refuse to grade work, accept late work, or offer help outside of class.
- *Bathroom Breaks:* It is preferable students use the bathroom right at the beginning of class to minimize classtime lost. Students need to ask to go to the restroom to ensure student safety and no more than 2 students gone from the room at once. If bathroom breaks become obviously disruptive, the instructor reserves the right to deny them.

The inability to follow CLASSROOM RULES (last page & above) may result in the following actions: ONE warning, expected apology to the instructor before work will be graded, 30-min. detention, home communication of the behavior & 30-min. detention, and then administrative attention such as suspension or class removal. Depending on the severity of the misbehavior, one or more disciplinary actions may be skipped.

WARNING about Sensitive Topics and Concepts:

Psychology is a discipline that will often confront tough subjects like human sexuality, gender identity/orientation, social issues/inequalities, race, drug/alcohol use, trauma, and violence. While this is always presented through a scientific and careful lens, it can be blunt and controversial. I will always send home permission slips for movies/readings that may be too mature for some students. However, these topics will still be readily taught and discussed. If this is something you would not like your student to participate in, please consider changing their class schedule.

Grading Policies:

Unit Projects: 40%

Near the end of each Unit, students will complete a cumulative project often requiring research, presentations, and artistic expression.

Assignments: 20%

Throughout the Unit, short noteguides, responses, and readings will often be assigned.

Quizzes: 30%

Quizzes which consist of multiple-choice questions and 1-2 short answer questions over the major concepts of each unit which will be reviewed in class with lectures and activities.

Daily Questions & Exit Tickets: 10%

Students will be randomly called-on at the beginning of the period to answer the Daily Question each day. They are mostly graded on effort and preparedness, rather than accuracy, so just preparing an answer at the start of class is half the battle. Exit Tickets will often be administered at the end of class and are also largely graded on effort and completeness, but with feedback provided.

I agree to follow the guidelines outlined in Mrs. Wheeler's 2025-2026 Introduction to Psychology Syllabus as stated directly.

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____