**AP Psychology**

**Rebecca Giardina**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description**

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

**Note**: AP Psychology is equivalent to an introductory college-level psychology course. As such, students should expect to complete work outside of class. Additionally, this course will touch on mature subjects. Students are expected to address these topics respectfully and with the understanding that some topics may be sensitive for other students.

**Textbook**

Myers’ Psychology for the AP Course – 4th Edition (also available online)

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 0: Scientific Practices

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior

Unit 2: Cognition

Unit 3: Development and Learning

Unit 4: Social Psychology and Personality

Unit 5: Mental and Physical Health

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

Tests

Units 1-5 will each have 2 tests. Unit 0 will have 1 test.

Vocabulary Quizzes

We will have frequent vocabulary quizzes. Vocabulary is an important part of the course and will need to be used effectively in order to pass the AP Exam. Students should make and study flashcards with terms on one side and definitions or examples on the other. Vocabulary quizzes will be cumulative. All topics covered to that point are fair game.

Projects

Each unit except Unit 0 will have a project. All projects will have instructions and a rubric posted in Canvas. Projects or portions of projects may have to be completed outside of class.

Mid-terms and Final Exams

Students who do not have an average of 90 or above at the end of the semester will be required to tax exams. The exams will be structured like the AP exam.

AP Exam

This year’s AP Exam will take place on May 16th in the afternoon. All students enrolled in the course are expected to take the AP Exam. Results will be available in July. In order to receive college credit, students will need to score a 3 or above on the exam. Many colleges and universities require a 4 or 5. Check on the policies at the school(s) you plan to attend.

**Course work/Classwork**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. While there may be appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work, is considered Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct. *See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.*** As this is a college-level class, work will not be accepted after 5 days.

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within 7 school days of their return. Weekly lesson plans can be found on my website. Assignments can be found in Canvas.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades (Quizzes, Classwork, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.) – 60%
* Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Other Tasks) – 40%

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See my webpage or Canvas for Relearn/Reassess procedure.*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Be engaged and participate in lessons.**
* **Do your best work.**
 |
| **Accountable** | * **Come to class on time with necessary materials.**
* **Complete your assignments on time.**
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| **Respectful** | * **Respect the learning environment and your classmates by staying on task.**
* **Respect the classroom by keeping it clean.**
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**Course Materials**

\* 3-ring Binder

\* Notebook Paper

\* Dividers (8)

\* Notecards – several packs for vocabulary

\* Highlighters

\* Your school-issued computer (no phones)

\* Writing Utensils (pencils or pens)

**My contact information:**

Email: giardre@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Band App:

**Resources:**

AP Classroom

**A copy of the course syllabus for AP Psychology can be found on my webpage as well as in Canvas. Please sign and return the**

Please initial the below statements:

\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) the parent/guardian of the below student have accessed online, read, and understand the contents of the syllabus for Mrs. Giardina’s AP Psychology course.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) understand the expectations of the student in the classroom and outside the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) am aware how to access the Week At a Glance (WAG).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) are aware of Rule 16 in the Student Code of Conduct about putting away all forms of personal technology in the classroom, including and not limited to cell phones, tablets, smart watches, headphones, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) give permission to show school appropriate movies and/or excerpts of movies that align with the Georgia Standards of Education to enhance the educational experience and understanding of a given historical event or topic.

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_