

Course Description:

Why are people superstitious? What is intelligence (and are IQ tests a good way to measure it)? Why don't psychopaths feel guilty when they harm others? How reliable are childhood memories? Why do we laugh? Do violent video games make people act violently? What do some people seem instantly trustworthy and others seem "creepy"? How does stress affect our body? While questions like these have been asked for centuries, psychology has begun to provide answers to these and other questions about the human mind by applying the tools of scientific investigation.

The course will encourage students to develop analytical skills, conduct research, investigate the mind-body connection, analyze concepts of consciousness, evaluate theories of personality, develop an understanding of psychological disorders, evaluate the role and effectiveness of treatments and analyze theories of intelligence. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of psychology through various projects, discussions and assignments.

Essential Questions:

- What is psychology and what is not?
- What are psychology's historical roots?
- What are the perspectives used in psychology today?
- How are genes and behavior linked?
- How does the brain produce behavior and mental processes?
- How is consciousness related to other mental processes?
- What cycles occur in our everyday consciousness?
- What other forms can consciousness take?
- What forces shape our personalities?
- What persistent patterns are found in personality?
- How is intelligence measured?
- What are the components of intelligence?
- How do psychologists explain IQ differences among groups?
- What is a psychological disorder?
- How are psychological disorders classified?
- What is therapy?
- How do psychologists treat psychological disorders?
- How is the biomedical approach used to treat psychological disorders?

Required Course Materials:

- 1- Blue or Black pen, highlighter
- 2- Notebook Paper
- 3- Charged iPad
- 4- Headphones
- 5- 1 Spiral Notebook (college rule)

Canvas:

This class will be using the Canvas system. This is where students will find and be able to work on all assignments and class activities throughout the school year. All assignments will be submitted into Canvas for grading instead of turning things in by hand. The advantages of this is

students no longer have to wait for the teacher to “pass back their paper”. Canvas allows students to always have their work, and allows the teacher to grade and provide feedback. Students will also be able to use Canvas as a way to get caught up on both assignments and/or class activities that they miss if they are absent. Assignment due dates will be posted in Canvas and will show up on their Canvas calendar. Canvas has a great messaging system. Whenever a student messages me in Canvas, a notification will be sent to me which enables me to respond quite a bit faster than if a student sends me an email. Students can access Canvas either through the internet or the Canvas app on their iPad.

NOTE: Though assignments will be graded and scored in Canvas, not all assessments will. As a result, Canvas will not show a student’s correct updated overall grade in the class. Power Schools will be where updated overall grades can be found.

Parents: are able to become an observer in their child’s Canvas class. Directions for parents to access their child’s Canvas site can be found at: [Link](#)

Classroom/Course Expectations:

Always be respectful and considerate of other people’s feelings and rights.

NO FOOD or DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM (except for bottled water)

No swearing in the classroom

Always come to class prepared with required course materials, and ready to work. Please place all backpacks, purses, etc. under your desk while you are seated.

Do **NOT** write on or scratch your desk.

Pick up all trash and put it in the trash can before you leave

Consequences for not following the above guidelines may include any of the following:

Parental contact

Detention before or after school

Referral to the conduct office

Electronic Devices: Many students want to have the privilege of carrying electronic devices on campus. With that privilege comes the responsibility of ensuring that those items are not used on campus during class. If students are found listening to music or texting in class or otherwise not fully engaged in learning, the device will be confiscated. Misuse of electronic devices may result in disciplinary procedures in addition to the confiscation of the device. Because we are becoming a technology rich campus, we are expanding the use of iPads as a learning tool. The iPads will be increasingly integrated into the curriculum to reinforce critical thinking, collaboration, and cognitive engagement. I will designate during which activities students may use the device, and I will articulate how the device should be used appropriately. If a violation of the stipulated use occurs, consequences will be enforced in accordance with the DVHS Student Handbook.

ID card: Student must visibly wear I.D. card at all times while on campus or at any school activity for the safety and security of all students

Grading Scale

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 0-59%

Semester Grade Breakdown

Assessments 50%
Class work, Projects 50%

District Final Exam 20% of your overall semester grade

Final course grades are computed as 80% equaling the coursework done throughout the semester and 20% equaling the final exam portion of the grade.

Assessments: Unit tests, quizzes and projects will be used as a means for assessment of course objectives.

Homework: Homework and class work will serve as a means to practice various lesson objectives and will be submitted into Canvas for points.

Class work: All your notes, video questions / details, thinking maps, and other in class activities that are not collected as homework will be graded within two days. Each individual activity must be finished in order to receive the points for that activity.

District Final Exam: Will be a two part final: Part 1 will be an SAQ (short answer question) & Part 2 will be multiple choice based on common core skills.

Regular attendance is required to pass. Good attendance is perhaps the most important factor to academic success. Parents or guardians will be notified when students has accumulated an excessive amount of absences. If you are absent it is your responsibility to get make-up work or schedule a time to make up a missed exam. Keep in mind that any missed work due to an unexcused absence will not be allowed to be made up. Remember, our use of Canvas allows students to turn in work even when they are absent.

Make-up Policy:

Students who have an absence which is excused have one day for each day absent to turn in missed work. Students who are marked unexcused will not receive credit for missed work, but will still receive feedback. See the student handbook for more information regarding excused and unexcused absences.

An assignment which is considered a long-term project is due on the due date and time as stated when the long-term project was assigned. Long-term projects may be turned in prior to the due date as well as parent/guardian may turn in at the front desk.

Late Work: Students who fail to turn an assignment in by the due date posted in Canvas, have until the next day to turn it in for HALF CREDIT.

Sweep: Any student who is swept and wants credit for an assignment that is due must turn the work into me BEFORE the start of the next class period. It is the responsibility of the student to get any assigned material on the same day of the sweep and turned in on the assigned due date.

Make-up Exams: Upon return from class after excused absences, a student has one school day for each excused absence to make-up the missed test. Exams missed as a result of an unexcused absence will result in a zero. You will need to schedule a time to make up the exam when the absence is excused. Students will be expected to take a test or quiz if they miss the day before the test or quiz since it would have been posted for at least a week in advance. Students may make up assessments / quizzes after school on MONDAYS, during SET on TUESDAYS, or schedule a day in the morning before school.

Cheating: Cases of cheating and plagiarism will be handled on an individual basis at the teacher's discretion in accordance with the DVHS student handbook. While there are many different ways to cheat or plagiarize, please be aware that activities such as sharing material, copying work, and posting information on a website are considered cheating. Those who give or receive answers will be held responsible for cheating and no points will be given to either party.

Catherine Boland,



M. Ed. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
M. Ed. Educational Administration
Gifted & ESL Endorsed; DVHS Social Studies
catherine.boland@dvusd.org