

Psychology Research Methods
Course Syllabus: 2020

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Purpose: The purpose of this course is to research different psychological case studies in order to help form an individual opinion about their published findings. Psychology is the science of human thought, behavior, development, personality, emotion, and motivation. After studying various scientists along their published case studies students will have a better understanding of the methods of research behind the science of psychology.

Reporting Standards:

1. Demonstrate Knowledge of Concepts and Theories in Psychology
2. Understanding Real World Issues Through a Psychological Lens
3. Verbal, Non-Verbal, and Written Communication Skills in Psychology
4. Ability to Recognize Multiple Perspectives

Course Assessments:

Formative Assessments:

Conducting research into various studies relating to the following topics:

- Role of the environment in the development of personality.
- Psychological benefits of laughter.
- The effects of circadian rhythms on human beings.
- The effects of cognitive dissonance on behavior/values.
- How does sleep impact mental health.
- Gender differences and the brain - separating facts from stereotypes
- Endorphins and their effect on mental health.
- Learned Optimism/helplessness and the implications for mental health.
- The Internet's positive/negative effects on our psychological health.
- Childhood Trauma and their impact on personality.
- Inherited Behavior: Can behaviors be modified?
- The Theory of Persuasion: The psychology of what does and does not work.
- Overcrowding and how it affects psychological health.
- Subliminal Messages: How do they influence behavior?
- Psychological effects of torture
- Psychological effects of war
- The function of exercise in psychological health/well-being.
- The psychological benefits of pets and pet therapy
- The psychological effects of solitary confinement

Formative Codes:

- EXE – student performance on the learning task exceeds expectations
- MET – student performance on the learning task met expectations
- DNM – student performance on the learning task did not meet expectations
- NC – student has not completed the learning task

Summative Assessment:

Students will conduct research into one psychological study by analyzing at least three separate case studies about the topic and creating a presentation to share their findings with the class.

Summative Scores:

Standards Referenced Grading Scale:

- **4** = Demonstrates thorough understanding of grade level standards and consistently and independently applies knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts.
- **3** = Demonstrates understanding of grade level standards and applies knowledge and skills in presented contexts.
- **2** = Demonstrates understanding and application of most grade level standards; needs teacher support to demonstrate proficiency.
- **1** = Demonstrates limited understanding and application of grade level standards; needs more instruction and/or practice to demonstrate proficiency.
- **0** = Rarely demonstrates understanding and ineffectively applies grade level standards.

80% Completion Rate Policy: In order to be considered for a passing grade, a student must complete at least 80% of the outcomes covered (formative and summative work) during a semester. If 80% of the coursework is not completed, the student will receive an incomplete in the course.

Attendance: If you miss a class, you are responsible for knowing before the next class what you missed and what work is due the day you return. Please ask another student what you have missed and not your instructor (especially during class). Remember, you are responsible for making up all the work you have missed. This work will only be accepted (if your absence was excused) on your first class back.

If you miss class or know that you are missing class the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to finish the work you were assigned.

Academic Integrity policy: You are expected to take credit only for original work that you produce. Plagiarism consists of submitting another writer's work or ideas as your own, or failing properly to credit another writer's words or ideas. It will earn you an automatic **0** for the work, your parents will be notified, and you will be reported to the administration. In order to protect yourself, always document your sources in notes

and/or bibliography. Use the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines for all citations.

Plagiarism includes passing off someone else's work as your own, copying from your peers, collaborating on individual assignments with peers, and using sources without proper citation.

Behavior Expectations: The values I strive to promote in my classroom are respect and integrity. If the learning community lacks the ability to respect themselves, each other, and the educator then the learning process will become hindered. Every member of my classroom will respect their fellow members and also be respected as well. The members of my classroom must also maintain their integrity in order to be successful. Integrity is a combination of honesty and moral principles. If everyone holds themselves accountable for their education then all work will be a direct reflection of your own skill

A Note on Controversial Subject Matter:

“It shall be the practice of Compass Public Charter School to provide for study of controversial issues in order that the student may have an opportunity to study such issues in a class atmosphere void of partisanship and bias. The rights of students to study significant issues in an objective atmosphere should be protected. [...] An educational climate shall be established which shall be conducive to rational thought, inquiry, and respect for the dignity of the individual. This educational climate will assist students in learning how to think rather than what to think and shall provide students the opportunity to identify, express, and defend their opinions without penalty or fear of reprisal or ridicule.”

~CHHS Practices for Handling Controversial Subject Matter