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Welcome to AP Psychology!

This is a list of important things to know about AP Psychology. Please read over it carefully and ask any questions you have. This syllabus is also for your parent(s)/guardian(s)/etc.(s), so ask any questions you think *they'll* have to keep them in-the-loop (they'll appreciate it). And if you forget to ask something or have a question later, contact me through the methods above.

When you understand the syllabus, sign at the bottom. Make sure your parent/guardian understands the syllabus, too, then have them sign as well. If you bring this back, signed, by the end of the week, you'll get +10% on your first quiz. You only have to bring back the signature page at the end.

The AP Exam & College Credit

- This class follows a nation-wide curriculum established by the College Board. It's a college-level class.
- All students are expected to take the nation-wide AP Psychology Exam on **Friday, May 16, 2025** at 12:00pm. This class is focused on preparing you for that test.
- AP Exams are graded by College Board readers across the country, not by the teacher. There will be a multiple-choice section and two written response questions.
- Scores on the AP Exam will range from 1-5. Most (but not all) colleges & universities will issue college credit for a score of 3 or higher.
 - ◆ At a private university, this could save you over \$3,000 in tuition.
 - ◆ It can also let you bypass required courses so you can focus on your major.
 - ◆ There's no penalty for scoring 1 or 2, and most colleges will view it positively.
- It's not all about the test though—in addition to a college-level understanding of psychology, you'll be learning critical thinking, analytical writing, and study skills, while passing a class many students don't dare to try. You're gonna be proud of yourself.
- This course involves a lot of work, but it pays off. Maybe literally!

Rigor

- ❖ This course will be an academic stretch and a strain on time management for most students. There is homework, you'll need to take time out to study to get a good score, and the vocabulary can be tough.

- ❖ HOWEVER! I'm not here because I love the College Board or the AP Exam, I'm here because I love teaching and I love psychology. My goal is to help you learn, so:
 - Your grade on the AP Exam (or whether you take it at all) has no effect on your class grade.
 - I'll help in any way I can. We're even going to try to find out how to "game the system" to improve your chances of getting a higher score.
 - There are *tons* of resources and literally *millions* of people in your shoes. Expand your social circle and you can get advice from students across the country.
- ❖ If I'm not offering the level of support you need, please let me know. I do my best to anticipate students' needs, but everyone misses things sometimes.

Instructional & Learning Activities

- ★ As a college-level class, lecture & note-taking are important. Expect at least half of every class to be some form of lecture & note-taking. It's a grind, but it works.
- ★ We will also do a variety of activities, like...

Discussions!	Close reading!	Graphical analysis!	Group challenges!
Review games!	Peer workshops!	Writing!	Simulations & games!
Current events stuff!	Posters & skits!	Hopefully a field trip!	Quizzes & tests!
- ★ As we get closer to the AP Exam, we'll spend more and more time with practice tests to get ready.

Grading

- ☐ Do Now and Exit Ticket activities are graded on **completion**, but aren't worth many points.
- ☐ Your daily lecture notes are graded on **effort**. I do that by including a few critical thinking questions at checkpoints in the lesson. Your answers to those questions are checked, but your slide notes themselves are not.
- ☐ Classwork, homework, and tests are graded on **accuracy**.
- ☐ Hazelwood recognizes two categories of assignments:
 - ☐ **Classwork** (30% of your grade), which includes lecture notes, Do Nows, and smaller activities. Each classwork assignment usually changes your grade by about 2%.
 - ☐ **Assessment** (70% of your grade), which includes tests and larger activities. Each test usually changes your grade by up to 6%, sometimes more.

Late Work Policy

- All classwork is due at the end of class that day. There will be a bin for you to turn your work in. I'll check your notes for effort after the lecture (or during), but you keep them to help you study. We'll learn the best ways to do this. When there's homework, it's due in the bin at the beginning of the next class period.
- If I don't have an assignment by the due date, it will be entered as Missing - 0% until you turn it in.
- When you turn it in, I'll grade it, subtract 10% from your score, and enter it in the system.
- If you don't turn it in by the day of the unit test, you can't turn it in any more.
- There will be one review day in the middle of each unit.

Absences (Student or Teacher)

- If I'm absent, I'll post something in Google Classroom. It's your responsibility to check our Google Classroom and complete the assignment whether we have a substitute or not. Late work rules still apply.
- If you are Absent-Excused, your due dates will be extended. When you get back, I'll have your work ready for you.
- If you are Absent-Unexcused, your work is due just as though you had been in class.
- **Make sure a parent/guardian calls the Attendance Office (_____) to excuse you officially!**

Cheating/Copying/Plagiarizing

- ❖ Cheating on tests will result in a 0%, a disciplinary referral, a call home, and a conference with me to discuss whether you can retake it. At the college level, cheating can result in anything from an automatic F in the class to expulsion from the university.
 - I won't accuse anyone of cheating without a very good reason, but that *does not mean you will get a warning* or that I have to get 100% proof to apply the consequence (more like 90%).
- ❖ Copying work directly from another student is a waste of time—you can't learn anything from it and you're exploiting someone else's work. College-level students (and most workers) do not like others to get credit for work they've done on their own.
 - The alternative is actually a **GREAT WAY TO LEARN** though. You go through a couple extra steps that force your brain to process the information a bit:

- Read the question out loud to the student you're working with. Have them read their answer back to you out loud while you listen. Then, write down the answer in your own words. It takes a bit longer, but you actually learn something.
- ❖ Plagiarism isn't just copying text without quoting it—it's presenting someone else's idea as if it's yours. Plagiarized work will be returned with a 0% and treated as Missing (see above) until it's corrected. I will always show you where your plagiarism is and help correct it. In college, plagiarism can result in expulsion or even them taking back your degree; in the professional world, plagiarism can get you fired, fined, or put in jail. Here though, you get a zero and a second chance. Any of these things counts as plagiarism:
 - Copying text word-for-word from another student, person, book, website, AI generator, etc. without citing it. (We'll go over how to do that.)
 - Copy-pasting text and then editing it is plagiarism. You can move words around or change them to synonyms, but you're still taking credit for someone else's idea.
 - Writing down exactly the answer your partner(s) had when we work in groups is plagiarism—you have to put it in your own words as much as possible.
 - If in doubt, cite the source anyway or ask me. Most plagiarism problems can actually be fixed really quickly!

Supplies/Materials

- ➔ This class will be using an AP textbook approved by the college board. We may be using either of two options, depending on what's available to us this year:
 - ◆ Handouts and copies from *Myers' Psychology for the AP Course*, 4th ed.
 - ◆ Physical and electronic resources from *The Science of Psychology 4*, AP Edition.
- ➔ A notebook or binder for handwritten notes. (I can provide one.) Unless you have a special circumstance, you'll be asked to write notes by hand. Studies show again and again that students who handwrite notes do better than those who type them.
- ➔ If you don't have a pen or pencil for notes, just get one from the **PAPER & PENCIL** cart. There will be a sign over it. There's no need to ask for paper, pen, or pencil, just get it.
- ➔ If you need a Chromebook or charger, ask me and I'll sign one out to you.
- ➔ Anything else (highlighters, stickies, etc.) is optional and will be provided if required.

My Notes & Answers to My Questions

Use this space to jot down any notes or questions to ask.

[illegible]

Please print & sign below to indicate you understand the information provided and don't have any further questions to ask.

Student Name (First & Last):

Student Signature & Date:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date: