

Psychology Course Syllabus 2019-2020

Semester 1 – Developmental Psychology

Class: Developmental Psychology
Room: 2313
Teacher: Mr. Olson
Prep Period: _____
Class Website: www.mysocialclass.com

Welcome to Developmental Psychology, the study the branch of psychology that deals with emotional, physical, cognitive, biological, personal, and social changes that occur throughout an individual's life cycle. The class will cover topics such as the human life span, the workings of the mind and body, and learning and cognitive processes. This is a junior/senior level class that contains some controversial and mature subject matter. Students are expected to exhibit age appropriate behavior at all times in class.

How can you be successful in this class?

First and foremost...**BE HERE!** You cannot participate or learn when you are not present. I will take attendance at the beginning of each period. It is your responsibility to be in the room and seated, in your assigned seat, or you will be marked absent or tardy. Five unexcused tardies count as an absence. If you miss 10 or more class periods in any semester you may receive no credit for the course.

Class Rules and Polices

Rule #1 **Come to class prepared to learn.**

Each day you will need to bring to class your textbook, notebook, pen/pencil, and most importantly a positive attitude.

Rule #2 **Accept responsibility for yourself.**

You are now juniors and seniors; you need to act like one. Everyday you should come to class on time, with all required materials, and go directly to your seat to begin working on that day's assignment. **Always remember, you are responsible for you!**

Rule #3 **Complete all assignments on time.**

All class work is due on the date given. Late work will only be worth completion credit only. Take pride in your work; do not be sloppy. Illegible work will not be accepted, and you will be asked to redo the assignment. Out of fairness to you, I will always give you ample time to complete your assignments, but you need to manage your time wisely.

Rule #4 **Study for your tests.**

Throughout the semester you will take several "Basic Knowledge" tests to determine that you have learned and understand the material. Any student who receives a score below 70% may re-take the test as many times as he/she chooses to get the grade up to "C" level but this must be made-up before the next test is given; after this time students, will receive the grade they earned on the first attempt or the best retake score earned to that date. All re-takes must be arranged ahead of time with me as you will not be allowed to use class time for re-takes. In addition, students will only be allowed retakes if all notes and assignments for that chapter/section have been completed; students must prove that these are completed before a retest will be allowed.

Students will have two options to choose from when taking a test on their initial attempt: the A-Option and the C-Option. Students choosing to take the A-Option can earn an A or B grade on their tests, however students may not use their notebook to assist them. Students choosing the C-Option may use their notebooks to assist them but the highest grade they can earn on the test is the *highest* possible C grade (typically 79%). Any points students earn beyond this grade are forfeited and not counted into the test score. Students retaking tests will always be allowed to use their notes on their tests but may only raise their grade to the *lowest* possible C grade (70%).

Rule #5 Show respect for yourself, respect toward your peers, toward your teacher, and property.

Every student in this class is a valuable member and a contributor. There are to be no put downs of any kind in this classroom. Any student found to be teasing, harassing, or being disrespectful toward any other class members will be dealt with disciplinary action. Room 2313 is a safe-haven for all students and each student's right to space, property, and opinions.

Do not abuse school property. There should be no writing on desks, in books, etc.

No student should be in my desk for any reason unless permission has been granted.

Students caught vandalizing school property will be referred to school administration for disciplinary action.

Rule #6 Always act in a safe manner.

There is absolutely no running, throwing things, or any other type of potentially unsafe behavior. Unsafe acts will NOT be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

At the end of the period/hour, you are excused by Mr. Olson, NOT the bell.

Rule #7 Keep the classroom neat and orderly.

Please make sure all garbage is placed in the garbage cans each day before you leave. Generally, I do not permit food and drinks in my classroom. However, as upper-classmen I will permit food and drink in reasonable quantities if all trash is cleared and the room is clean. Please realize this is a privilege that can be taken away at any time.

Rule #8 No Passes

You should take care of all your business during the passing time between classes (locker stops, drinking fountain, telephone, and restroom use) not during class time. Generally, I will typically NOT allow students to leave my classroom for these reasons.

Rule #9 Make-Up Work

Excused Absences:

Any assignments given before your absence must be turned in immediately on return to school to receive full credit. For work assigned during your absence you will receive the same number of days that the rest of the students received.

Tests must be made up within three days of your return or a zero score will be assigned. It is up to you to make arrangements for a make-up time. You will not be allowed to make-up a test during class time.

Unexcused Absences:

If your absence was unexcused, you will receive zero credit for daily work and this may not be made up. If you miss a test with an unexcused absence a zero will be assigned and students will be allowed to make up the test for the lowest possible "C" grade following the test retake policy. Please note that the main office staff not the classroom teacher determines an unexcused absence. If an absence needs to be cleared as excused you must clear it in the office, not with the teacher.

Absences Due to School Functions:

If you miss class due to a school function (i.e. athletics, music lessons, field trips, blood drives, etc.) you are responsible for obtaining all work **prior** to the absence to receive full credit. Students failing to do this will have their work treated as if it was late and will be penalized per the grading policy.

Also, if you miss class due to being in the nurse's office, and are not sent home during the day, you are still responsible for checking in and picking up any missing assignments from that day and turning any assignments due on that date or a zero score will be awarded. The nurse's office is not a valid excuse for not completing class work on time.

Rule #10 Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices

Cellular Phones: Cellular phone use and possession is generally not allowed in my classroom without teacher permission. Any student caught using or possessing a cell phone in class will have the device confiscated and it will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian. It will NOT be returned to the student. Students are highly encouraged to leave their phones in their lockers, however as students enter the classroom there is an orange Rubbermaid container where students may place their phones in for safekeeping and without penalty for the class period. Students need to have their phones powered off and they may be picked up as they leave the classroom at the end of the class period. Please be aware that Mr. Olson will not be responsible for any lost or missing phones. **If you are taking this class to study psychology...Welcome! If you are taking this class to be using your phone...DROP THIS CLASS!**

Electronic devices may occasionally be permitted in class for certain academic activities. Students will be given notice as to the dates these devices will be needed in class. These will also be listed on the weekly agenda listed on the class website.

Grading

Quarter grades are based on the following percentages:

25% Daily Work, Homework, and other Activities

50% Tests

25% Notebook Quizzes (weekly and notebook)

Grading Scale:

A = 100% – 90%

B = 89% – 80%

C = 79% - 70%

D = 69% - 60%

F = 59% or less

Final grades are based on combined quarter averages (50% each quarter). Students will have the option of completing a cumulative final exam that may replace the lowest quarter average.

Extra Credit:

Students may earn five points of extra credit each week by turning in a printed grade sheet from the Infinite Campus Portal website. This printed sheet must be signed by a parent/guardian and must be turned in by the completion of each school week.

Materials needed for this class

1. Notebook
2. Folder for Handouts
3. Pen or pencil
4. Valid Quizlet.com Account (Instructions will be given in class)
5. Other materials may be needed throughout the semester. You will be given notice ahead of time when these materials are needed.

Psychology Notebook

As part of your daily work grade, you are required to keep a notebook. This notebook will be used for class notes, assignments, and for possible use on tests. The notebook will be randomly checked at various times of the quarter and points will be awarded. There will also be random notebook quizzes taken from notebook assignments. These will be counted as a portion of your quiz grade. A three-ring binder should be used for this assignment.

Notebook Policies

1. ALL notes given in class should be included in the notebook. Each page of notes should include the date at the top of the page to indicate the day the notes were taken. As juniors/seniors you have permission to paraphrase these notes.
2. ALL written assignments such as book questions, Junior Scholastic readings, journal writings, essays, etc. must be included in your notebook. For ALL assignments, you must write out all questions, neatly and completely, NO abbreviations. Below each question you are to write out the answer in sentence form. Those students choosing not to do this will be asked to do the assignment over.
3. ALL assignments must be dated and labeled so that it can be easily identified and checked. Also, each assignment should be on a separate sheet of paper.
4. ALL assignments must be neat and legible, or you will not receive credit and you will be asked to rewrite your work.
5. Any evidence of plagiarism (copying of others work) will result in a failing grade for the quarter. This policy applies to assignments only; notes may be copied from other students.
6. You may be allowed to use **YOUR** notebook on tests and quizzes. You are not allowed to use other student's notebooks on tests and quizzes, if you are caught using another student's notes you will receive a failing grade for the test. In addition, if you are caught knowingly giving your notes to another student to use on a test you will also receive a failing grade for the test.
7. You are responsible for getting any notes and assignments you miss due to absence from school or class.
8. Make sure your notebook is labeled with your name.
9. Bring your notebook to class every day. I will not allow passes to your locker if you forget to bring your notebook.
10. You are responsible for you! A lost notebook is your problem...NOT mine! Lost notebooks are not an excuse for late work. I will not offer an extension or special privilege to you if your notebook is lost.

Parent/Guardian Signature Page

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please take a moment to look over the class policies that will be enforced this semester in your child's Developmental Psychology class. The purpose of this page is to ensure that your child shared the information given to them on the first day of class and to help answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please look over the class policies and have your child return this sheet signed to me by Monday, September 9, 2019.

In addition, if you would like to keep informed of class studies, assignment requirements, test and assignment due dates, and other information please check out the class website at www.mysocialclass.com.

Mr. George Olson

I have looked over the class policies for my child's Developmental Psychology class with my child and understand the expectations that my child will be held to throughout the school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Child's Name

Please provide an e-mail address if you wish to receive reminder notices for student tests, assignment due dates, and other class information.

E-Mail Address: _____