**AP Psychology Syllabus**

**Lane Tech College Prep High School**

**Ms. Paras**

**2019-2020 School Year**

*Contact Information*

Office Hours: Before school, After school Thursdays, 2nd, 5th , or 7th period; by appointment

Room Numbers: 312(primary) and 427 Phone Number: (773) 534-5400 X23618

Email: eparas@cps.edu Course website: http://msparas.weebly.com

*Course Description*

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students will be exposed to facts, principles and phenomena associated with psychology. Topics studied in this course include, but are not limited to, different psychological perspectives, research methods, human development, sensation and perception, motivation, emotion, personality theories, abnormal psychology and social psychology.

*Course Objectives*

By the end of the year, students will be able to:

* Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. Students will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary. Students will be able to compare and contrast the major theories in psychology. Students will develop an understanding of the biological and psychological bases of behavior.
* Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. Students will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the general validity of research reports. Students will be able to recognize the scientific nature of investigation in psychology.
* Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. Students will be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
* Students will develop critical thinking skills. Students will become aware of the danger of accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.
* Students will enhance their literacy and discussion abilities.
* Students will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists. Students will maintain high ethical standards and sensitivity in applying the principles of psychology to themselves, other people, and other organisms.

*Teaching/Learning Strategies*

AP Psychology is the equivalent of a college level introductory psychology class. It is a challenging course intended to provide the same level of academic accomplishment expected in a university setting. Students will take the AP exam in May and will have the opportunity to earn college credit depending on the scores they achieve and the universities they attend. Students will do much of their work independently and outside of the classroom (reading, writing, projects, etc.)

*Course Rules and Expectations*

* Come to class on time and be prepared to learn. Bring a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning.
* Be respectful of the classroom, your fellow classmates, your teacher, and yourself. This includes raising your hand, listening when others are talking, and being respectful of other peoples’ opinions.
* If you are having a problem related to this course please let me know! Be proactive. Communicate with me in person during my office hours or via email.
* Be fully present in class. Participate in all activities and discussions, do NOT use cell phones or wear headphones during class, and do NOT pack up early.
* Use language appropriate for the classroom.
* Appropriate snacks and drinks are welcome-please don’t bring smelly, messy food.
* Student I.D. must be worn at all times.

*Class Materials*

In order to be successful in this course please bring the following materials everyday:

* Writing Utensil: pen or pencil. You must bring a pencil on exam days. Highlighters are also helpful as well as different colored pens for peer grading.
* Spiral notebook: used only for this course. A large notebook is preferred.
* Textbook: You should already have a copy of our textbook, *Psychology: Themes and Variations*.
* Review Book: *Barron’s AP Psychology*, 8th Edition.
* Folder or Binder: This will help you organize all materials for the AP Exam.
* Approximately 500 blank index cards.

*Attendance*

Attendance is crucial for this course. If you know you will be absent inform me as soon as possible to make arrangements. In the case of an unplanned absence see me when you return to school. It is YOUR responsibility to get any assignments you missed. You can check the course website, ask a classmate, or email me. You have the amount of days you missed in order to make up the work. This requirement includes quizzes and tests. NO make-up assignments or exams will be allowed for unexcused absences or unexcused tardies.

*Grading Scale*

A= 90 - 100        B= 80 – 89      C= 70 – 79      D= 60 – 69     F= 59 and Below

*Other Grading Policies*

Grades for this course are based on homework assignments, in-class assignments, projects, written work, and exams. Your grade is determined by the following weighted categories:

Unit Exams: 30% Quizzes: 25% Assignments: 30% Final Exam: 15%

All grades are posted in Gradebook, so you can keep track of your progress in this course. Let me know of any discrepancies immediately.

I will accept late work the day after an assignment is due for half credit. I will not accept late work past that time.

Assignments are considered turned in “on time” if they are placed in the bin at the beginning of class. If I have already collected the bin, the assignment is late.

All work turned in must be original. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. No credit will be given for an assignment that is plagiarized, and disciplinary action may be taken.

Cell Phone Policy: Students will receive a 0 on any test or quiz if a cell phone is out during assessments. To ensure this is not an issue I recommend keeping your cell phone in your backpack for the entire class period. In addition, students will receive a 0 if their cell phone is out during assignments when it is not authorized.

*Miscellaneous Policies*

Lane Tech offers many exciting programs throughout the year that students are invited to attend with a signed permit. Usually I am willing to sign these permits, but it is teacher discretion. If you are absent due to one of these programs you must make arrangements to turn in any assignments the day of and makeup any exams.

*Google Classroom Codes*

Period 3: 2dyjskx Period 4: 4v3r3rk

*My AP Classroom Codes*

Period 3: GP32VG Period 4: 9ZX63Q

**Disclaimers:** A.P. Psychology may contain any of the following adult material:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Language** | **Violence** | **Graphic images** | **Sexual Orientation** | **Sexual Content** | **Phobic Content** |
| - Swearing  - Slurs (this includes words like “stupid” or “dumb”)  - Dismissal of lived oppressions, marginalization, illness or differences  - Talk of drug use (legal, illegal or psychiatric)  - Discussions of -isms, shaming, or hatred of any kind racism, classism, hatred of cultures/ethnicities that differ from your own, sexism. | -Abuse (physical, mental, emotional, verbal, sexual)  -Child abuse/pedophilia  - Self-injurious behavior (self-harm, eating disorders, etc  - Kidnapping (forceful deprivation of/disregard for personal autonomy)  - Rape  - Suicide  - bullying  - Serial Killers  - References to mob behavior including genocide. | * Descriptions/pictures of violence or warfare (including instruments of violence, such as knives or guns) * Descriptions/pictures of medical procedures (may contain blood or gore) * Images of sex organs (including internal) * Images of breasts * body images associated with eating disorders | - Transgender, degendering, or anti-trans\* views of bodies  - Discussions of homophobia or hatred of sexualities or genders that differ from your own  - sex positive concepts  - Discussion of the nature vs. nurture debate on homosexuality.  - Discussion of Alfred Kinsey’s work on homosexuality. | - Discussions of sex  - Pregnancy /childbirth  - Discussion of the human orgasm and its various stages.  - Discussions about sexual motivations, --“hook-up” culture or non-marital sex.  - Discussions of sexual deviance including fetishes and proclivities.  - Poly-amorous relationships | * Corpses, skulls or skeletons * Needles * Death or dying * Spiders * Insects * Snakes * Vomit * Blood * Serious injury * Anything that might inspire intrusive thoughts in people with OCD |
| \* This course may also contain material similar to that which is listed above but not mentioned explicitly. | | | | | |

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SYLLABUS AFFIRMATION FORM

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course syllabus. Please return after signing.

*I have read and understand my child’s course rules and expectations.*

Parent/Guardian Printed Names:

Parent/Guardian signature:

Email Address: Preferred Phone Number:

Dear Student,

Please sign below to affirm the following statement.

*I have read and understand the course rules and expectations. I understand my responsibilities as a student.*

Student Name: Period:

Student signature: Date:

Please return this form to Ms. Paras by **Friday, September 6th**.