

Mr. Kessler's Psychology Syllabus 2009-2010

This class is designed to give students an understanding of psychological behavior and development of human beings from infancy to adulthood. We will explore the nature of learning and memory, altered states of consciousness, and psychological disorders. The content will be based on the Quality Core Curriculum Standards. The lessons will be geared towards preparing the students for the Local End of Course Test.

Throughout this class we will be discussing material that may be uncomfortable for some students to hear. None of it will be inappropriate for a classroom setting. Students taking this class will be expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner. This includes refraining from any inappropriate comments about the varied disorders that will be discussed. We do not want to do or say anything that may be offensive to other students in the class.

Class Rules

1. Arrive to class **on time** and **prepared**. This includes having all needed materials including pencils, paper, and books ready at the beginning of class.
2. Show **respect** to your teacher and fellow students. This includes avoiding arguing with the teacher and other students. Avoid any inappropriate behavior in the classroom.
3. **No complaining** about notes or other classroom assignments. This is school, from time to time you will be required to do school work, deal with it.
4. Don't tell me you're cold. It is impossible to keep the temperature suitable to everyone. If you are cold bring a **jacket**.
5. Don't tell me you weren't talking. If I tell you to stop, just stop. If you truly weren't talking and I ask you to stop, just say OK and we can move on.
6. Consistent disregard and violation of these rules will result in detention.
7. Students are expected to be familiar with the code of conduct as laid out in the student handbook. This includes knowing the simple rules and the standard punishments that are delegated to violators. These rules include:
 - a. Dress code and **uniform** policy: You know it, don't break it.
 - b. The possession of **cell phones** for any purpose, including checking the time.
 - c. Avoid being **tardy** for class. You should be inside, not right outside, when the bell rings.
 - d. Warnings will not be issued for violating these rules. You are experienced enough in public school to understand these expectations.

Tests

Students will be tested after each unit of material is completed. The tests will be announced ahead of time so that the students will have adequate time to prepare. Preparation throughout each unit is strongly advised. This course contains a Local End of Course Test. Students will also be required to complete a "Self Notebook" that will be counted 10 % of their final grade.

Absences

It is important that students attend all classes. We will cover a lot of material in a day and if a student is not in class he or she will fall behind. Students will not be able to make up work that was missed because of unexcused absences. It is the responsibility of the student to make up all work that was missed during an absence. If you miss a test, you will have a week to make it up from the date of your return, no exceptions. Students must schedule a time to make up the test with me, don't expect me to come to you.

Materials

Students will need a 3 ring binder to keep his or her notes in. All tests will be on scantrons so it will be important to have a pencil on test days. I will not provide pencils. Additional materials for the "Self Notebook" and other projects will vary throughout the nine weeks.

Grades: Class work...25%, Tests...40%, Notebook....10%, Homework....10% LEOCT.....15%