

PSYCHOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS

TEXT: Understanding Psychology, Kasschau, R.A., Glencoe, McGraw-Hill, 2003

INSTRUCTOR: R. Jenkins, M.S., M.A.

I. **SUBJECT MATTER:**

Performance Psychology	Personality Theory	Test Performance	Personality Disorders
Learning Theory	Relationships	Marriage	Child Psychology
Depression (prevention)	Brain Functioning	Wellness	Psychology of Seal / Delta
Classical Conditioning	Operant Conditioning	Happiness	Choking (prevention)
Test Anxiety (prevention)	Self Discipline	Psychology of Success	Psycho-biology

II. **DISCIPLINE:** All students are held accountable to the highest 'Bishop Montgomery standard of behavior' in this class. That means you should look at it as if Ms. Vigon was teaching the class. Students who lack impulse control, age appropriate maturity and /or draw attention to themselves by engaging in any type of negative behavior that disrupts the class in any way will be disciplined to the highest degree possible immediately (referrals). I will not tolerate **any student who disrupts the class environment in any way** because that /those individual(s) can rob the class of its morale and camaraderie. Just follow the rules and you'll enjoy the class and learn a lot.

III. **BASIC RULES**

- a. No food or drink in the classroom or the doorway at any time; crumbs hit the floor and then the custodians have to clean up the mess; I don't like it when someone is inconsiderate of others.
- b. Only one person talks at a time in this class – instant violation
- c. All Students will be in their seats when the bell STARTS to ring. If a student has to run in the classroom to get to their seat in time they could fall and hurt themselves so that is an instant violation.
- d. No Cheating: When a student cheats I call them on it in front of the other students at the time of the infraction; those who cheat embarrass their families. You will get a zero and a referral and mom and dad will not be happy because it shows poor character.
- e. No Cell Phones
- f. All students are required to have something to write with and something to write on in addition to having your textbook every single day of class. If I see that you are asking a friend for supplies, you can receive a violation.
- g. During test days, if you have to get a scantron from a student, you will have 10% deducted from your grade on your exam. If your scantron doesn't go through the scantron machine because it is wrinkled or for any other reason, you will have 10% deducted from your grade. If you have to ask anyone for anything during an exam (erasure, white-out, etc.) you will have 10% deducted from your grade on the exam.
- h. That's it; the rest is common sense. It's natural for students to test their instructors early and although I hate giving violations and / or referrals I will be forced to do so to keep the class fun for the rest of the students.

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- IV. **EXAMS:** Exams will be given after every one to three chapters (with the exception of mid-terms and final exams, which are comprehensive). Each question on the exam will be worth at least two-points. Exams will have between 25 to 200 questions, depending on the detail and the chapter(s) covered. All exams are multiple-choice except make-up exams, which will be my prerogative; they could be matching, short answer, essay, or all of the above.

NOTE: Makeup exams are completely different from the exam the rest of the class took and the information covered will come strictly from the chapters in the book. I do this for two reasons: First, I want to go over the exam the next day so students can learn from their mistake, and second, I want the student who misses a lot of my lectures to be able to still earn a good grade on the exam without the benefit of having heard all the lecture material. Every year I have one or two students that miss at least four of five class days in a row and it would be very difficult earn a good grade on the exam without the benefit of being in class for the lectures which are very detailed. So if you do miss an exam, you know that all you need to do is thoroughly study the material in the book and you will be fine.

- V. **LATE / MAKE-UP WORK:** When work is turned in late, the student will lose 50% of the grade they earned for each day it is late. I will give an assignment on a Monday (the chapter term sheet for example) and it will be due the next day (Tuesday). However, I will allow you to turn in that same assignment anytime between that “due date” and the day the exam is scheduled to be given, and no points will be deducted. Why do I do this? Because I don’t want you to miss an entire day of school (all your other classes) just because you didn’t complete an assignment in my class. If you don’t have one of my assignments done on time, there is absolutely no reason to miss any school because you are going to lose points no matter what your excuse is because the due date was several days earlier. It is your responsibility to get your work to me on time. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to come to me to make sure you make up the exam the day you come back. If you don’t do this, you will receive a zero for your grade, permanently.

Your grades are continually updated after every assignment so you cannot come to me days or weeks later and say “I turned in that assignment and you gave me a zero” because I cannot “give” you those points without written proof. You can always go online and see your current grade, as can your parents at any time day or night. If an assignment is due at a time when you are going to be absent from school (such as a retreat), that work must be turned in **before** you leave for the retreat – there are no exceptions. If you want to take an exam BEFORE the day the rest of the class is taking the exam, you may do so. In that case you WILL take the same exam the rest of the class will take – this is probably better for you and I respect that you are responsible enough to think ahead.

- VI. **GRADES & GRADING SCALE:** The grading scale is based on accumulated points. Your grades will be posted and updated after every exam or project, and you will normally receive those scores within 24-hours. You will need to know your ID number to obtain your grades. The grade “order” is based on the person with the highest point-total, who is on top; the student with the second most points is number two, and so on.

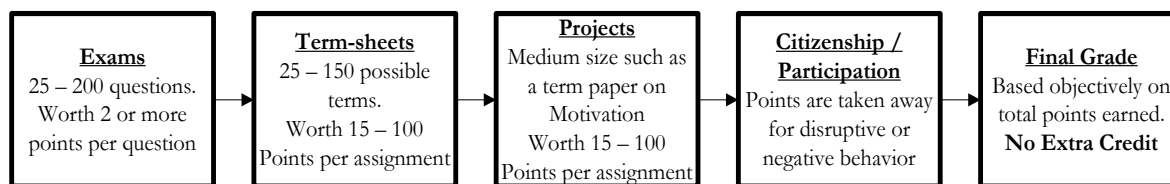
89.5 – 100 = A

79.5 – 89.4 = B

69.5 – 79.4 = C

59.5 – 69.4 = D

How points are accumulated



- a) Although this can be a difficult class and earning consistent “A’s” on exams is challenging, students may still earn an “A” in the class by completing all the assignments on time with excellent detail in addition to receiving well-above average, to excellent grades on exams. **I WANT you to earn the “A” in the class!** Unfortunately, I have had semesters where no one earned an “A” in the class even though the class average was close to 80%.
- b) I will be available to meet with students or parents as requested. I do my absolute best to return all phone calls the day I receive them. However, the best and most efficient way to get a hold of me quickly is to e-mail me at **RJenkins@BMHS-LA.org** and I will respond within hours. If you do this and you don’t hear from me quickly, please assume there is something wrong with the server and perhaps call the counselor and they can send me a note or shoot me an e-mail right away and I will get back to you with whatever information you need. Although parents can easily find student’s grades online 24 hours a day, I always try to include all the student’s grades with my responding e-mail.
- c) You will have exams, term sheets and small projects to work on which will determine your grade. However, your grade is based mainly on exam scores as they are in college. The term-sheets and small projects are designed to give those students on the border of a higher grade the ability to attain the highest grade possible.

VII. **INTERNET RULES:** The internet is a big component to this class because we can obtain so much new information. “GOOGLE” is very helpful if you can’t find a term in the book or you can’t ask me for help for some reason.

- You will get your term sheets and / or review questions online from my school web page which may be updated as we go through the material because new information comes up all the time that perhaps wasn’t available to me when I wrote your exam and or term sheet at the time. You need to have that material with you when I begin lecturing on that section. This will help you follow along in class and keep you up-to-date on our work.
- **You are never allowed to print psychology class materials from the computer lab. If you do so, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Mrs. Kline knows my rules and if she sees work from my class coming out of her printer, we will have a problem. Print class materials from your home computer, a friend’s computer, or Kinko’s if necessary.**
- E-mailed assignments are never accepted.
- You may e-mail me regarding any questions you have and I will get back to you with answers right away.

Finally, I will do whatever I can to help you succeed. If you are having problems in any area of your life and you need a “mulligan” let me know and I will get you the resources you need, and we will work out something for class so you don’t have to stress over things relating to an “elective” course. If you feel like you can’t come to me, please speak with one of the Choices Counselors. Sometimes I’ll joke around with you a bit; if you think for one second that I have hurt your feelings in anyway, please bring this to my attention and I will make amends. I am usually very aware of my student’s demeanor and I can tell if you’re having a bad day or you seem distraught (but not always). If I think I may have struck a nerve or embarrassed you, I may speak with you about it later to make sure you are NEVER uncomfortable in my class at anytime. I want this class to be a good experience for all the kids.

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CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT

Worth: 25 points.

Due: Friday August 22, 2014

- 1) **Print ONLY the last page of this document (page 4).** Go through the syllabus and read it so you know what is expected of you when you're in the classroom. Re-write it using outline form – it should take maybe 40-minutes at most but I need you to understand the rules.
- 2) Have a parent sign this page and then you need to sign this page so I know you have read and understand the expectations of the class.
- 3) You are only going to hand in this contract. If you print out the syllabus and turn it in with the contract, you will receive a zero because you did not follow directions. This assignment is to prove that you can follow directions, and to give you a good start in class with an “A” on your first assignment.

Parent Printed Name

Student Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

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