

Psychology Course Description – Fall Semester 2019
Crested Butte Community School
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Course Website: mregedy.org
641-7720 ex. 6510



Course Description: *What is this course about?*

This course is an introduction to the science of behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. We will examine many different perspectives on human behavior, while also emphasizing the common themes that hold the various areas of psychology together as an academic discipline. We will be exposed to the process of psychology and attempt to understand behavior by using the methods and theories of psychology.

Course Objectives: *What do I want you to gain from this course?*

- *An understating of Happiness.*
- Awareness of the basic principles related to the major disciplines of psychology.
- Study key concepts of the major schools of psychology and important theorists with their contributions to psychology.
- Know how psychological research is conducted.
- Be able to critically evaluate theories.
- Be able to critically evaluate research.
- Be able to apply psychological concepts to experiences outside of the classroom.

What You Need Every Day: *How do you come prepared to succeed?*

1. A three-ring binder – for notes, handouts, assignments, etc. You will have a CUMULATIVE FINAL.
2. Note book or loose-leaf paper
3. Pen/Pencil
4. Textbook Exploring Psychology by David Myers

My Expectations:

- ✓ Be Prepared: You will be expected to bring all materials to class.
- ✓ Be Here: You will be expected to be in your seat and ready for class. Do not abuse the ability to leave class (ex: bathroom, locker, etc.)
- ✓ Be a Student: You are expected to conduct yourself as a learner and a participant in OUR class. You will acknowledge the presence of other students in class. This means raising your hand and respecting the viewpoints of your peers.
- ✓ Make a Choice: By coming to class, you choose to be engaged and participate. If you want to waste time (ex: checking your phone, sleeping, passing notes, etc.), this will not be the place for you. Keep in mind...this is an **ELECTIVE** class.
- ✓ Please communicate any necessary information at the appropriate time (don't wait until the last minute)

Absences:

- With all due respect, class will be held with or without you. Since most of the course focuses on information discussed and presented in class, missing school regularly may take a significant toll on your performance measure.
 - If missed, assignments can be found on our course website.
- You will make up a quiz, test, or any other assignment the day you return unless otherwise necessary (ex: an extended absence due to illness)
- Missed work becomes your responsibility to make up.
- If getting to an afternoon class will be *difficult* for you, you should consider other options.

Late Work:

- *ALL WORK IS DUE* at the **BEGINNING** of class unless otherwise specified.
- You may turn in late work. However, habitual late work will lower your Work Habits grade and can prevent a student from being on Honor Roll. Expect a message home if missing assignments are frequent.
- Late work will be accepted until the end of a unit only.
- All assignments are expected to be completed unless otherwise specified. Missing work will be recorded as an **M** and will be ultimately scored as a **zero**.

Grading:

- Grades serve as a useful communication tool to quantify student achievement to students, parents, other teachers, etc. The goal of grading is to facilitate student learning and success.
- Standard Grading System: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59-50 = F (minimum grading will be implemented).
- There will be many options to establish your Psychology grade including homework, tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, etc.
- Extra Credit: There will be limited options to improve your grade through extra credit assignments. One extra credit literature review will be offered for the semester. **Do not plan on relying on extra credit to survive.**
- Effort, behavior, attitude, and time on task will be submitted as a *Citizenship* grade.
- Preparation, timeliness, and productivity will be part of a *Work-Habits* grade.
 - Citizenship and Work-habits rubrics are available at mregedy.org
- Large assignments will have a rubric so you will know what is expected

Methods and Content:

- Classes will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, projects, analysis, and critical thinking. Each item will have various point values throughout the semester. Your “success” in this class largely depends on your participation, work ethic, and personal contributions to our class. Choose the grade you want, and make it so.

Tentative Course Outline:

Unit 1 – Psychology’s Origins, Historical Approaches, Contemporary Approaches and Careers, Research Methods and Classic Experiments

Unit 2 – Brain Structure and Processes (the Brain, Nervous/Endocrine System, Stress, Motivation)

Unit 3 – Psychological Development (Theories, Infancy through Adulthood)

Unit 4 - Applied Psychology (Social Psychology, Psychoactive Drugs, Alcohol Abuse, Depression, Brain Injury, Violence, Attraction)