

Social Psychology

Revised 08/09

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you to your student's 2009-10 school year at Valley High School. I am looking forward to working with your son or daughter in Social Psychology class.

Throughout the year, your student will be studying topics including Freudian psychoanalysis, the behaviorists, humanism, brain and behavior, psychopathology, psychotherapy, sociology, drugs, human sexuality and much more. We will be using the textbook *Understanding Psychology* as well as many other sources. I encourage you to take a look at the text and the handouts your student brings home.

Some of the topics in psychology are controversial and if you envision this being a problem for you or your student, you may want to speak with me or request a transfer from a school counselor.

In order to be sure that all students have the learning environment they deserve, please review the school behavior and attendance policies, found in the student handbook, with your student. Additionally, please make certain you and your student understand the specific classroom policies and expectations for my classroom, found on the following pages.

If your student carries a cell phone, please ask them to be sure that it is off at all times while in our classroom. I would ask you not to call them during class (and encourage them not to accept calls from others during class time) as this will lead to the phone's confiscation. Please call the office in an emergency and they will relay the message to the student. These important communication devices can be a considerable distraction in class.

Required supplies for this class (due on Friday, August 28) are as follows:

1. 3 ring binder
2. Loose-leaf paper (lots of it!)
3. Pencils/pens
4. 1 box of tissue
5. 1 package of Play-Doh (or equivalent), 4 colors minimum

There are several ways of contacting me. The method I prefer is email at mrmattsmith@comcast.net, largely because this will be checked daily. Also, you may want to stop by my web page at <http://mrmattsmith.com> where you can find information about what your student is learning and other helpful items. Secure access to grades for each student is available so each student, parent or guardian can track their progress. If you do not have internet access, you could send a note with your student or call at 345-9021 extension 82161. I check my voice mail usually no more than twice a week so your response might be delayed.

I welcome your support and urge you to communicate with me whenever you have a question or comment.

Respectfully,

Mr. Matt Smith

Social Psychology Syllabus 2009-2010

Teacher: Matt Smith

Room: C-25

Email: mrmattsmith@comcast.net

Web site: <http://mrmattsmith.com>

Phone: 345-9021 extension 82161

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:00 or by appointment

Exam makeups are available Thursdays during lunch or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Social Psychology the student studies human behavior and the ways in which each becomes a unique person. The course attempts to help the student understand himself/herself and others and the uses of psychology in everyday life. Areas of study include, but are not limited to, introduction to psychology, history, and methods; abnormal behaviors and treatment; personality theories; personality assessment; brain, body, and behavior; and consciousness and altered states. The student also investigates careers in psychology and related fields.

This year, for the first time at Valley High School, the national standards (which are set by the American Psychological Association) will be followed. Each standard area refers to a major topic or unit representing a subdivision of psychology. The respective standard areas within each of the broad domains are listed below.

I. Methods Domain A. Introduction and Research Methods

II. Biopsychological Domain A. Biological Bases of Behavior B. Sensation and Perception C. Motivation and Emotion D. Stress, Coping, and Health

III. Developmental Domain A. Life Span Development B. Personality and Assessment

IV. Cognitive Domain A. Learning B. Memory C. Thinking and Language D. States of Consciousness E. Individual Differences

V. Variations in Individual and Group Behavior Domain

A. Psychological Disorders B. Treatment of Psychological Disorders C. Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behavior

The district has also developed standards for Social Psychology. The students will be exposed to and expected to know information in the following strands:

STRAND I: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY, HISTORY, AND METHODS

STRAND II: ABNORMAL BEHAVIORS AND TREATMENT

STRAND III: PERSONALITY THEORIES

STRAND IV: PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

STRAND V: BRAIN, BODY, AND BEHAVIOR

STRAND VI: CONSCIOUSNESS AND ALTERED STATES

A complete list of the standards for this course is available from the class web site or directly at http://home.comcast.net/~msmith241/Social_Psychology.pdf

Required texts: 1) Understanding Psychology-Kasschau (Yellow Book)

The students will have a variety of projects and papers (including learning basic A.P.A. style) throughout the year. Also, they may be required to do outside reading during the year.

FALL SEMESTER

Social psychology, an introduction to psychology as a science, history, careers and research methods. Biological bases of behavior. Sensation and perception. Development and personality theory. Stress and coping. Brief parapsychology unit: a critical investigation of paranormal and fringe-science claims.

SPRING SEMESTER

Motivation and emotion, abnormal psychology, including drugs and addiction, memory, Learning and conditioning. Language and cognition.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to both this syllabus, the rules and expectations in order to create an optimal classroom environment.

Progress reports will be sent home periodically via mail about every four weeks. Be sure Valley has your correct mailing address, and if you don't receive the report, call the school for information.

Rules and Expectations

1. Be on time and prepared. You must be sitting in your assigned seat with your supplies when the final bell rings. I follow school policy regarding tardies. Bring your required materials to class everyday.
2. Students are expected to remain in their seats in class. Hall passes may be given only in accordance with school policy.
3. Treat others and our classroom with respect, fairness, and consideration.
4. No cell phones, makeup, laser pointers, music playback devices (iPods, etc.), and any other items deemed intrusive are to be seen or heard in the classroom. These items will be confiscated and turned in to the office. If you carry a cell phone, make absolutely sure the ringer is off.
5. Additionally, all school policies must be followed. Be sure you are familiar with those rules. You will be held responsible for them.

Consequences

First Offense: nonverbal or verbal warning.

Second Offense: Loss of participation points.

Third Offense: student/teacher contract and report to parents by note or phone call.

Final: referral to principal or assistant principal

Note: Any serious misbehavior such as defiance, violation of safety rules or fighting will result in immediate referral to principal or vice principal.

Attendance Policy:

To have an absence be considered excused, you must 1) have a parent or guardian call the school attendance office within 24 hours of the absence, or, 2) have a valid Viking excuse.

Unexcused absences: No makeup work will be assigned or accepted.

Excused absences: Makeup work will be assigned before or after class only. I do not give makeup work during class time. You have as many days to make up the work as you were excused.

Students are encouraged to exchange phone numbers with another trustworthy student in class so they can find out what they missed in class.

Late Work Policy

Late work for daily assignments is often accepted until a deadline announced before the grading period ends. Check with me to see if this is a possibility. Projects and group assignments generally have a penalty for late submission.

You get the work into my hands by the end of the day. I usually stay after at least a few minutes, or, you email the assignment to me by 9 P.M. that same day.

You must make up a missed test within three class meeting times.

Heading your papers:

The following must be on all assignments turned in to me in the upper right hand corner: Name, class period and the date. *No name. No grade.* Assignments are due when requested.

Grades:

I use the following percentage scale: A= 90 percent and above, B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69, F= 59 and below.

Notebooks:

You will be required to keep a notebook this semester and bring it to class daily. In the notebook you will keep any notes given during lecture (please date each day's entries) and any handouts or returned assignments. The notebook will be collected at intervals for a grade. On occasion I may collect an assignment from a previous day.

Substitute teachers:

There will be times when I am not in class and I expect you would treat the substitute with the same respect you show me. Failure to do so will result in a discipline contract and a call to your parents.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes and additions to the rules and expectations in order to create an optimal classroom environment.

Please fill out completely and sign below indicating that you have read and understand all four pages of this document. Student must return the signatures (cut below the line above) for a grade.

Student Signature Print Student Name _____
Date

Parent or Guardian Signature _____
Date

Instructor Administrator

Concerns: