

Social Psychology

Revised 8/07

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you to your student's 2007-08 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 or music player, please ask them to be sure that it is off and invisible at all times while in our classroom otherwise they will be confiscated. 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 removal from your student's possession. 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. While it may seem obvious, in my experience, the students that perform well, get good grades, and learn the most in my courses are the students that are paying attention.

Required supplies for this class (due on Tuesday, August 21) are as follows:

1. 3 ring binder
2. Loose-leaf paper (lots of it!)
3. Pencils/pens
4. 1 package of straight drinking straws
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 2007-2008

Teacher: Matt Smith

Room: C-25

Email: mrmattsmith@comcast.net

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

Phone: 345-9021 extension 82161

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.

The district has developed standards for Social Psychology. (I was on the team that wrote them.). 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>](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 reading outside of class novels and viewing outside of class movies during the year. Exams will be given after every one or two units. Semester exams are cumulative.

FALL SEMESTER

Introduction to psychology as a science and research methods, the brain's influence on behavior, learning and conditioning, child development, personality theory and assessment. Usually around Halloween we engage in a brief parapsychology unit that is a critical investigation of paranormal and fringe-science claims.

SPRING SEMESTER

Abnormal psychology, including drugs and addiction, memory, sensation and perception, and social psychology.

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

Rules and Expectations

1. Be prompt and prepared.
2. Students are expected to remain in their seats in class. Hall passes will 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 and it is invisible.
5. Additionally, all school policies must be followed. Be sure you are familiar with those rules. You will be held responsible for them.

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 class, after class or during tutorial 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 when they are unable to attend.

Students who arrive late should report to the sweep room.

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. Parents will be mailed home a record of their student's progress three times each semester. Be sure Valley has your correct mailing address, and if you don't receive the report, call the school for information.

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 may 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.

Social Psychology Signature Page

Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand all four pages of the Social Psychology Parent Letter and Syllabus document. Students must keep this document in their notebook. Students must bring this signature page back to class filled out completely and signed for a grade.

Student Signature

Print Student Name

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Instructor

Administrator

Parents and/or students: Please list any concerns, questions, or comments below-