Psychology – SST 303

Course Overview and Syllabus

**Course Number:** SST 303 **Grade level:** 9-12

**Prerequisite Courses:** None **Credits:** .5

**Instructor:** Shawn Parks **Contact:** sparks@bethelsd.org

# Course Description

# The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Course material covers attitudes and social influence, stress, conflict and adjustment in society, personality theories, and psychological research. Students analyze human growth and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, and other perspectives. Students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field.

# Course Objectives

Throughout the course, students will meet the following goals:

* Discuss the development of psychology as a social science.
* Identify psychodynamic, behavioral, social, cognitive, and humanistic theories of personality and discuss the approach each takes to understanding human behavior
* Analyze how current research in neuroscience influences our understanding of the biological and environmental foundations of behavior.
* Explore how environmental stimuli are sensed and perceived.
* Describe the nature of consciousness and its relationship to psychological well-being.
* Experiment with learning and memory formation and evaluate how intelligence is measured.
* Compare theories of motivation and emotion.
* Analyze and apply strategies for strengthening mental health and wellness.

# Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 4 hours per week in class and complete 2.5 hours of homework on the following activities:

* Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
* Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
* Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams
* A final project demonstrating ability to conduct a scientific psychological study

# Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly in the classroom and through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop speaking and listening skills.

# Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

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| --- | --- |
| Grading Category | Weight |
| Quiz | 10% |
| Exam | 10% |
| Assignment | 60% |
| Project | 20% |

# Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson’s link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below:

1. The Science of Psychology: History and Research
2. The Biological Perspective: The Nervous System and the Brain, Heredity and Environment, Sensation
3. Psychological Disorders: Causes and Treatments
4. Lifespan Psychology
5. The Psychology of Personality
6. Mental Health and Wellness

# Course Standards:

[National Standard for High School Psychology Curricula](https://www.apa.org/education-career/k12/psychology-curricula.pdf)