

Yonkers Middle High School

An International Baccalaureate School

150 Rockland Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10705
(914) 376-8191

Course: IB Psychology SL

Instructor: Mr. John DeBellis
jdebellis@yonkerspublicschools.org

Course Description: IB Psychology SL is a full year course that covers major theories upon which psychology is based and the implications of those theories. Goals of this course include: preparing students to submit their best quality work to the IBO in the form of two written exams and the internal assessment. An overview of research methods, biological bases of behavior, cognition, human development, socio-cultural influences on behavior, and psychological disorders will be addressed.

Text: A. Popov, L. Parker, D. Seath (2017) Psychology: Course Companion. Oxford University Press, N.Y.

R. Hock (2005) Forty Studies That Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological Research (6th edition). Pearson Prentice Hall, N.J.

Objective: *Student will master the following topics:*

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. History and Approaches | 5. Socio-cultural |
| 2. Research Methods | 6. Human Relationships |
| 3. Biological | 7. Psychological Disorders |
| 4. Cognitive | |

TOK: A good psychology student is a critical thinker who is willing to ask questions and examine the evidence. Many questions are open-ended, the purpose of such questions is to apply psychological knowledge and think critically about important issues and discuss them in an open-minded and knowledgeable way. "Theory of Knowledge" is infused into every unit of IB Psychology SL and students are encouraged to develop their own TOK connection. Once students are properly trained, discussions become second nature and debates are unavoidable. An example of a guided question is provided below:

Cognitive level of analysis: Memory

Which of these statements best reflects your view of how human memory works?

1. *Everything we learn is permanently stored in the mind, although sometimes particular details are not accessible. With hypnosis, or other special techniques, these inaccessible details could eventually be recovered.*
2. *Some details that we learn may be permanently lost from memory. Such details would never be able to be recovered by hypnosis, or any other special technique, because these details are simply no longer there.*

Discuss how reliable you would find accounts of restored memories if you believed in statement 1 or statement 2. Explain why this is so. Support your argument with knowledge from TOK and psychology.

Professional Behavior:

Part of the nature of learning experiences in psychology course work involves students reflecting upon their own feelings, thoughts, attitudes and experiences. This entails some level of personal disclosure. Therefore, it is extremely important that confidentiality be maintained. Revealing any information about other students outside the classroom is a breach of confidentiality. If you wish to share with others outside the classroom, you must limit yourself to sharing only about your own experiences, and avoid using any names or descriptive characteristics of your classmates. All students have the right to make a personal decision as to the extent to which they wish to share about themselves in the course of role-playing or other demonstrations.

Class Participation/ Attendance:

It is the student's responsibility to be on time and attend every class unless there is a valid emergency/reason. Unexcused absences/lateness will impact your grade. Class participation/attendance is a segment of the student's grade. Being in attendance alone does not mean that the student will receive full credit; the student must also be an active and constructive participant in discussions, role-plays and group projects. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may impact the student's grade negatively. Should the student be aware

of any absence ahead of time he/she is welcome to ask the teacher for assignments to be completed during the time out of school. No electronic devices can be used in class. By using these devices it is the student's choice to become an inactive member in the classroom and the student's grade will reflect their choices.

**Missed Exams/
Assignments:**

Schoology.com will be used to post assignments, presentation dates, test dates, as well as study sessions. Students are responsible for the timeliness of their assignments. Missing/late work will affect the student's grade. Should the student be absent from class they may look to Schoology.com for their assignments. Should the assignment be heavily reliant on that day's lesson the student is responsible to make an appointment with the teacher for assistance in order to make-up the assignment. Should the student miss a presentation date he/she is responsible to immediately schedule an appointment with the teacher to discuss options. Should the student miss an exam it is the student's responsibility to request a make-up. Extra credit will be available at the discretion of the teacher. Assignments may vary.

**Academic
Dishonesty:**

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty. Each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in a scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. This means that all written work (including presentations) that is submitted by students must be their own. If you include facts or concepts from another scholar's work it must be properly referenced. Reference requirements and methods will be discussed in class. There will also be a reference guide available in the classroom if needed. By committing academic dishonesty the student risks failure of that assignment. A parent conference will also be held to discuss the matter.

Homework:

Will consist of keeping up with the reading and assignments.

Papers:

The main objective of this course is to prepare you to submit your best quality work to the IBO in the form of two written exams and the internal assessment. As a result, there will be many exercises focused on sharpening your critical / analytical writing skills. The SL Psychology exam consists of two written papers and an internal assessment.

Paper #1 - (External Assessment) is a two hour written response that includes three S.A.Q.s and a choice of one out of three essays based on three levels of analysis:

- a. **Biological**
- b. **Cognitive**
- c. **Socio-cultural**

Paper # 2 - (External Assessment) is a one hour paper. Students will choose to answer one essay from three questions relating to the optional topics. This year we will be focusing on Human Relationships.

Internal Assessment - Students are required to research and replicate a psychological experiment.

Tests / Exams:

Will be administered as necessary when a topic or group of topics has been covered at length in class and in the readings.

Grading:

Class Participation	25%
Homework / Papers	25%
Exam / Test Scores	50%