

# GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE EXPECTATION SHEET

**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

**COURSE: A.P. PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Purpose of the Course:**

The purpose of the Advanced Placement Course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students are exposed to facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfield within psychology. Methods used by psychologists in their science will also be studied.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the AP Exam in Psychology.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of Psychology.
3. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research.
4. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills.
6. Students will build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.
7. Student will learn about psychology as a profession. They will learn about ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

TEXT: Psychology, David G. Myers. Worth Publishers

### **Questions to think about before we begin:**

1. Why are you taking this class? Do you want to learn psychology? Are you ready for a college level class? Are you serious about the AP Exam in May? If not, this is probably the wrong class for you.
2. What are your priorities? Are academics near the top of the list? If not, this is probably not the class for you.
3. How much time will you be able to devote to this class? This will depend on your own strengths and weaknesses.
4. Are you a strong reader? In terms of course requirements, nothing will occupy more of your time than reading and studying the text. If you are not a strong reader, know that it is going to require extra time and effort on your part to compensate.

*Keep in mind that your level of motivation is much more important than your ability level. If you want to succeed in this course and are willing to put the time in, you will succeed. Attitude, study skills, determination, and discipline count for more than intelligence.*

### **Required Notebook:**

A 3-ring binder is required. You will be responsible for keeping it neat and well organized. In it, you should keep all handouts, class notes, notes from the text, study guides, and returned papers.

### **Class Policies:**

1. Unless otherwise indicated, all written work must be typed or word processed. Save everything on disk.
2. Late work is a teacher's nightmare!
3. Make-up work is another teacher's nightmare! If you have an excused absence that you could not anticipate on the day of a test, or the day an assignment is due, you should be prepared to turn in the work on the day you return to school.
4. Don't Cheat! The damage to your integrity and reputation is difficult, if not impossible to repair. Better to do poorly with dignity than to get an A dishonestly.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Cutting is not permitted. If you intentionally absent yourself from class without a legitimate reason you will not be entitled to make up any assignments or exams missed during that period. Intentional absences are a clear message that you are not interested in doing your best. Excessive illegal absence or any cutting will result in parental notification and will have a negative impact on how your class participation will be factored into your quarter and final grades.

**Policy on Tardiness:**

Do not be tardy. It is rude and disruptive. The following policies apply:

1. It is your responsibility to bring a pass if you are late to class.
2. Your teacher will determine procedures for unexcused lateness.
3. The student is reminded that participation and effort are considered a vital part of the final grade. Chronic tardiness to class will be dealt with according to school policy.

**Extra Help:**

The regular help day is \_\_\_\_\_. When necessary, other arrangements will be made.

**Plagiarism Statement:**

**Plagiarism** is defined as presenting thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as your own. Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one's own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another or to permit another to present one's own work without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be determined by your performance on tests, quizzes, and assignments. Specific procedures for calculating grades will be explained in class.

*Advanced Placement Psychology is an exciting but challenging course. I find that students rarely earn a score of 100 on exams. As a result, I will adjust test score as the College Board does for the AP Exam. However, anyone who does not complete assignments will not be given additional points on tests.*