

IB Psychology

Ms. LaCombe

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Course Goals

A student of Psychology is one who is interested in human behavior and is, thus inquiring into the cause of the behavior, thinks about how to predict and control behavior, reflects upon the factors related to both social and unsocial behavior. The approach to studying human behaviors is eclectic in nature, because there are many factors influencing us, ranging from our biology, environment, genetic inheritances, thought processes, language, ect. As future Psychologist within the IB paradigm, you will explore and gain knowledge about psychological concepts such as perception, attention, schema, conditioning...questioning it from a local and global perspective. This leads you the student to be open minded about your perspectives as well as others. An IB Psychology student is encouraged to be principled, caring and a lifelong learner because the very nature of the subject will enable you to see into the strengths and weakness of being human.

How do we seek out explanations and not expect to arrive at an ultimate, definite answer to explain complex phenomena?

How do we look at the human condition: using empathy, understanding, analytical skills, and a non-judgment?

Course Objectives

Explain, where appropriate, how cultural, ethical, gender and methodological considerations may affect the interpretation of behavior.

Describe, compare and evaluate the four content topics of the perspectives: development and cultural contexts, framework, methodologies, and application.

Describe and evaluate theories and empirical studies of perspectives

Identify and explain the strengths and limitations of explanations of behavior of each perspective

Describe and evaluate theories related to the selected options

Identify, explain, and evaluate empirical studies relevant to the selected options

Apply theories and findings of empirical studies to explanations of human behavior

Analyze and compare issues with the selected options

Research Methodology

Demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge and skills required for experimental design, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation.

Texts

John Crane & Jette Hannibal, Psychology Course Companion. (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009)

Roger Hock, Forty Studies that Changed Psychology. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009)

Aims of Psychology

Interpret and conduct psychological research to apply the resulting knowledge for the benefit of human beings

Ensure that ethical practice and responsibilities are implemented in psychological inquiry

Develop an understanding of the biological, social, cultural influences on human behavior

Develop an understanding of different theoretical processes that are used to interpret behavior, and to be aware of how these processes lead to the construction and evaluation of psychological theories

Develop an awareness of how application of psychology in everyday life are derived from psychological theories

Develop an appreciation of the eclectic nature of psychology

Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry

Assessment:

The IB Psychology exam is an essay-based assessment. Therefore, we will be doing a lot of writing this year. Assessments include: written exams, quizzes, presentations, and take-home essays. We will also be writing a review of literature this year.

Procedures

* Assignments are due **in class** unless otherwise specified. If you hand it in at the end of the day, it is late. Late work is marked down 20% for every day that it is late.

*If you have late work to submit, ***do not put it in my faculty mailbox***. Please hand in work directly to me to avoid any question as to when it was actually submitted.

* You will be required to *read the textbook*. There will be several additional handouts. It is essential that you try to be organized from the very beginning.

* We are not engaged in individual investigations of you or your families. Psychology will give you greater insight into the human condition as well as the societal forces at work on us, but it won't tell us how to read people's minds. We are not seeking the truth about behavior or society, but are seeking truths and understandings.

* When discussing, we never engage in judging, we are engaged in the pursuit of why people do what they do and what that can tell us about human nature and the forces that influence it. We look at many sophisticated and sometimes contradictory perspectives on human nature, but we will never use traditional value judgment in our arguments.

*Our job as Psychology students is never to prove why, but to investigate how.

* You may wish to ask for assistance via email. I check my email regularly and promise to answer your questions immediately. The latest I usually check is 9 p.m. and earliest is usually 8 am. Contact me at: slacombe@sturgischarterhschool.org
