

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
SOSC 3451 Psychology AP  
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

A comprehensive examination of Psychology geared toward developing a greater understanding of the reasoning behind individual's behavior and thought processes. The emphasis for this class will be placed on preparation for examination towards college credit, as well as researching the interests of the students within the parameters of the text. Areas of study for this course include topics such as personality development, emotional development, mental health, parenting principles, psychoanalysis, learning and intelligence, family and social relationships, communications, the history and systems of fundamental psychology, and the systematic integration of Christian/biblical principles to human behavior and cognition. Students will also learn to write concisely and effectively within the parameters of the College Board so that they may complete the Free Response Question section of the AP Exam.

Curricular Mapping:

This course will give students a broad overview of many topics in the field Psychology. Upon successful completion, students will earn credit toward their college degree and will provide a strong foundation of psychological knowledge.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and have developed insights into human behavior and thought processes, both individually and within social relationships through reading of the text, class projects, and class discussion.
2. Appreciate the multitude and complexity of influences on behavior and thought processes, both internal to us (i.e., genetics, neurophysiology, traits) and external to us (e.g., parenting, learning, culture).
3. Analyze behavior from multiple psychological perspectives.
4. Understand the methods that psychologists use to understand behavior and the strengths and limitations of those methods.
5. Understand the moral and ethical issues inherent in psychology.

Required Texts

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a "Required Course Materials Fee" thru the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17 School Year](#) icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Prerequisites: This course is reserved for Jr and Sr. level students.

Course Outline:

Unit 1: History and Approaches

Unit 2: Research Methods

Unit 3: Biological Bases of Behavior Part A

Unit 4: Sensation and Perception

Unit 5: States of Consciousness

Unit 6: Learning

Unit 7: Cognition

Unit 8: Motivation and Emotion

Unit 3: Biological Bases of Behavior Part B

Unit 9: Development

Unit 10: Personality

Unit 11: Testing and Individual Differences

Unit 12: Abnormal Psychology

Unit 13: Treatment of Psychological Disorders

Unit 14: Social Psychology

Review Week #1

Review Week #2

All students will be required to complete the following course assignments:

1. Summer Work ([MVCS website](#))
2. "Parts of the Brain" papers
3. Psychology Journals
4. Daily coursework and readings
5. Character Diagnosis Project
6. Semester 1 Exam
7. Semester 2 Exam

Grading:

All assignments, projects, presentations, papers, and exams will be graded on a variable point scale based on the weight of each assignment.

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Quizzes and Exams	45%	Quarter	40%
Homework	25%	Quarter	40%
Projects	30%	Final Exam	20%

### Explanation of Grade Book Categories

Homework Expectations – 1 hour/night

Late Work Policy: Assignments will be accepted up to one day late with a 50% reduction.

Assignments will not be accepted over two days late for credit.

Summer Reading Expectations: see as stated above

### HS Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Student Handbook.

### Class Policies:

Please see the instructor if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies.

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class daily. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to get the classwork and homework you missed from Focus or a classmate. Late work due to an excused absence will be accepted based on the guidelines in the MVCS Student Handbook
2. Tardiness: Students are expected to be in the classroom with the necessary materials for that day WHEN THE BELL RINGS. If this is not adhered to, you will be marked “Tardy.”
3. Bathroom: Students should plan on using the bathroom before or after class. If you frequently require trips to the restroom during class, the student and teacher will meet at a time outside of class to determine the true needs surrounding these circumstances.
4. Late Work: Assignments will be accepted up to one day late with a 50% reduction. Assignments will not be accepted over one day late for credit.
5. Major projects, you will lose 10% for each day it is late. It will not be accepted if it is over five days late. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete missed assignments.
6. Extra Credit: No extra credit will be given unless approved by the instructor.
7. Student Conduct: The rules for student conduct in class will be consistent with those outlined within the Student Handbook. Due to the nature and theme of some of the materials covered in this class, students will be expected to act with objectivity and maturity. Students are expected to be sensitive to the opinions expressed in this class by fellow students and the instructor.

8. Love God. Love your neighbor as yourself. These establish the foundation for all our interpersonal interactions.
9. Enjoy water (in a bottle) in class but not food or other drinks.
10. On-Task Behavior:  
When time is given in-class to work on assignments, the student is expected to be on-task. When students are off-task (e.g. playing games, messaging, working on other courses, etc.), the instructor has the discretion to deduct points from the assignment's total point value, up to 50%.

#### School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.

#### Tips for Students:

1. Note taking is imperative to success in this class. Students are required to maintain and record lecture material on a daily basis. Random note checks may be done periodically by the instructor.
2. For the class to be successful, everyone must attend and contribute. I expect the following from each student in this class: When you walk through the door you are here, focused and participating. This includes being physically here, mentally here, fully focused, and willing to learn, question, speak out in class, share experiences, and critically examine the concepts presented with an open mind).
3. You will be able to access your grades on Focus. (Parents) Be aware the grade you see in the grade book during few weeks of any quarter might not be indicative of your child's final grade.)
4. Unless noted otherwise, all written assignments must be graded on expression of original ideas in addition to material content. As such, it is suggested that all students take their time when writing and allow themselves multiple opportunities to proofread and make any necessary corrections. Papers must be written in American Psychological Association (APA) format (as opposed to MLA).