PSYCHOLOGY
Ms Vickey

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

Every member of this class will have an opportunity to learn in an atmosphere which is both comfortable and conducive to classroom success.

Every member of this class will have the right to ask questions and to express opinions as they apply to the course materials.

To these ends, **all class members shall conduct themselves in a civil and reasonable manner.**

**Required for Class**

Text:
*Psychology, A ConnecText.* 4th ed. Pettijohn, Terry F.

Internet access: In order to get the most out of the text resources, some assignments will require web access. (There is a link to the author’s site from my web site.)

A notebook/journal

**Goals**

This one semester course is designed to give students a basic background in the study of psychology. Topics will be determined by student and instructor interest and the demands of scheduling.

More than any other course in the social science area, psychology asks the question “Why?” Why are some people motivated more than others? Why do specific actions stimulate “good” behaviors in some people and “bad” behaviors in others. Why do some humans seem _____? And others not so ____? Although there are many ways to frame the questions that we will ask, the question “Why” will be a recurring theme in the class. In addition to the social science discipline, psychology integrates science, math, and language within its study. This wide combination of disciplines makes psychology one of the most interesting fields of interest; there aren’t any areas of our lives that do not concern the study of psychology. In that light, we will attempt to draw on those connections, to encourage thinking: convergent and divergent, to attempt to answer the question “Why?” and to communicate our thoughts on why we and others around us do what we do.

**Assignments and Grading**

Readings from the texts, newspapers, and magazines are considered to be daily assignments; to that end, **students are expected to read and discuss the material daily.** Grades will be based on **class participation** (including homework assignments, quizzes, journal entries and discussion), a major collaborative project, individual projects, and chapter tests.
Grade Requirements

Quarter Grades

20% – Projects – Each student will complete two projects per quarter. The use of projects is designed to encourage students to use their own interests to support and compliment the materials in this class. My aim is to allow students the greatest possible latitude, within the scope of the material, in determining the specific activities. Projects should be instructional in nature; hence, students should bring in outside information and experiences (not from the textbook or class instruction or discussion) and present it to the group in a manner that will enhance student appreciation of the material.

Projects have included:
  - experiments
  - naturalistic observations
  - surveys
  - creative activities
  - "test" analysis

20% Participation – Homework assignments, quizzes, journal entries and discussions. I expect students to participate in class discussions. Because familiarity with the subject matter is necessary for intelligent discussion, students must keep up with their reading assignments. I will use homework, oral or written quizzes, journal assignments, and classroom observation to determine the participation grade of individual students. In addition to topic familiarity, I expect students to participate in all discussions in a reasonable manner. This includes, but is not limited to having respect for the teacher and other students (e.g. not interrupting others, and not making inappropriate remarks about or to anyone in the class). I also expect students to remain on task and work on individual, group or class assignments when made.

60% Tests – Students should expect to be tested on every topic formally covered in this course. The test material will be based on the text book, lecture notes and class discussion.

If you have questions or comments about these or any classroom policies or activities please contact me:

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