

Psychology SL Syllabus 2023-2024

Subject Area: Social Studies

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Psychology Aims:

The aims of the psychology course at SL and at HL are to:

1. develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behaviour
2. apply an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behaviour to at least one applied area of study
3. understand diverse methods of inquiry
4. understand the importance of ethical practice in psychological research in general and observe ethical practice in their own inquiries
5. ensure that ethical practices are upheld in all psychological inquiry and discussion
6. develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied to address real-world problems and promote positive change.

Resources:

- Popov, Alexy, et al. *Psychology Course Companion*. Oxford. Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Hock, Roger R. *Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological Research*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall, 1995
- InThinking – Psychology

Expectations:

There are several requirements that all IB classes have in common: high expectations of the students, a high level of rigor, and the expectation that students will engage in self-learning outside the classroom. There are many topics on the IB Exams. We will learn a great deal in class with rigorous learning activities. However, it will be necessary for all students to complete work and research topics at home that we may not discuss in class.

Important:

Psychology is a course that includes a number of sensitive topics that you may feel uncomfortable talking or hearing about in class. I will discuss with you the nature of the movies and documentaries I am going to show you so that you can decide if you are comfortable with the topic. Please communicate with me if there is a topic we are covering is difficult for you. We will develop a plan of action together.

Classroom Materials:

Notebook/Paper for taking Notes

Blue or Black Pen – Required to write assessments

Grading Criteria:

- Major Grade Category (60% of quarter grade)
 - *Unit Tests* – include multiple choice and timed writings
 - *Major Projects*
- Minor Grade Category (40% of quarter grade)
 - *Activities* – in-class and outside assignments such as short group projects, “mini-experiments,” etc.
- Semester Exam (20% of semester grade) – a replica of the IB Paper 1 format

By the end of the psychology course students will be expected to demonstrate the following.

1. Knowledge and comprehension of specified content
 - Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of key terms and concepts in psychology.
 - Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of a range of psychological theories and research studies.
 - Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural approaches to mental processes and behaviour.
 - Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of research methods used in psychology.
2. Application and analysis
 - Demonstrate an ability to use examples of psychological research and psychological concepts to formulate an argument in response to a specific question.
 - Demonstrate application and analysis of a range of psychological theories and research studies.
 - Demonstrate application and analysis of the knowledge relevant to areas of applied psychology.
 - At HL only, analyze qualitative and quantitative research in psychology.
3. Synthesis and evaluation
 - Evaluate the contribution of psychological theories to understanding human psychology.
 - Evaluate the contribution of research to understanding human psychology.
 - Evaluate the contribution of the theories and research in areas of applied psychology.
 - At HL only, evaluate research scenarios from a methodological and ethical perspective.
4. Selection and use of skills appropriate to psychology
 - Demonstrate the acquisition of skills required for experimental design, data collection and presentation, data analysis and the evaluation of a simple experiment while demonstrating ethical practice.
 - Work in a group to design a method for a simple experimental investigation, organize the investigation and record the required data for a simple experiment.
 - Write a report of a simple experiment.

Make-up Work:

It is entirely the responsibility of the student to acquire missed notes and assignments. Make-up work must be turned in and missed tests must be taken *within a week following the absence* (if the absence is excused). Grades are assigned zeroes (“Z” in the grade book) until they are completed; if a week passes without work being completed, the grade becomes permanent (“0” in the grade book). **No late work is accepted in this class.**
AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE = ZERO FOR MISSED WORK!

Tutoring:

Tutoring & Make-Up Sessions – Tuesdays 8:00, Both Lunches, and 4:15.

SL Assessment Outline

- **External Assessment (3 Hours – 75%)**

Assessment Component	Weighting
Paper 1 (2 Hours)	50%
Paper 2 (1 Hour)	25%

- **Internal Assessment (20 Hours – 25%)**