

Saint Patrick High School

Psychology Curriculum Guide

Department:	Social Studies	Grade and Level:	Senior
Class:	Psychology	Term (Semester or Year):	Semester

Required Text:	No textbook
Additional Resources (i.e. texts, materials, apps, etc.):	<u>iPad Apps</u> Showbie, Google Docs <u>Other</u> School email, Psychology website, Portal Plus Assorted packets and readings as class handouts

Course Description

This is a one-semester introduction to psychology. The course explores the different approaches psychologists use to understand human behavior.

Academic Standards Addressed (CCSS or equivalent):

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8

Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Unit Themes (Table of Contents)

Theme 1:	Overall introduction: definition of psychology, key concepts, what students expect to learn in the course.
Theme 2:	Short review of basic psychological approaches to human behavior: behaviorist, psychoanalytic, cognitive, humanistic, evolutionary, neurobiological.
Theme 3:	Methods of psychology: understanding the science of psychological experiments and the different ways to study human behavior. Introduction to psychological research.
Theme 4:	Learning Theory: understand the basic aspects of behaviorism and learning theory.
Theme 5:	Motivation: drive-reduction, arousal, incentive, hedonism, instinct, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, flow and positive psychology.
Theme 6:	Consciousness: current neurobiological theories of consciousness. Exploration of the subconscious, sub-routines, bias, heuristics. Buddhism, peak experiences, making the unconscious conscious and the importance of controlling conscious attention.
Theme 7:	Developmental psychology: Introduction to various aspects of psycho/emotional/cognitive development. The theories of Jean Piaget, Sigmund Freud, and Erik Erikson (among others) are introduced and discussed.
Theme 8:	Personality theory: depending on remaining available time, numerous theories of personality will be explored and discussed. Attachment, trauma, and environmental factors will be discussed throughout the semester as important factors in determining personality traits and characteristics.

Agreed Upon Assessments

Forms of assessments may include but are not limited to....

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Introduction	Duration	1/2 Week
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Essential Questions:

What is the definition of psychology? How do we deconstruct this definition: “The scientific study of human and animal behavior.” What do we mean by: “scientific study,” and “human behavior”? Why do we use animals in experiments? How much do we need to understand about evolution and the basic brain structure of all mammals?

What is research and applied psychology? What do psychologists do?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

Define and explain what psychology is and what different types of psychologists do.
 Understand the difference between psychologist and psychiatrists, neurosis/psychosis.
 Know the differences between clinical, educational, and organizational psychology.

As always, students will bring their own questions about human behavior to class and we will discuss them and learn about the current research in each area.

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Psychological Approaches	Duration:	2 Weeks
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Essential Questions:

What are the traditional lenses through which human behavior has been viewed and analyzed? What are the basic approaches to understanding human behavior and where did they come from?

What is behaviorism, humanism, psychoanalysis, cognitive psych, evolutionary approach, neurobiological approach?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to:

Identify, define, discuss, and explain each different approach.

Apply each approach to a variety of different human problems such as depression, anxiety, paranoia, addiction, oppositional/defiant, ADD, ADHD, social anxiety, etc.

Explain the historical antecedents to each approach and theory.

Common Assessments:

Section quizzes

Daily discussions

Unit test

Unit:	Methods of psychology	Duration:	1 week
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Essential Questions:

How do research psychologists study human behavior and how do we understand their results?

What are the basic modes of conducting psychological experiments?

What are some of the famous experiments and what did we learn from them?

How can we design and complete our own psychological experiment?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

Identify and explain the basic concepts of the unit (different experimental designs, basic statistical analysis: variables, correlation, statistical significance, etc.).

Identify and explain: laboratory experiment, field experiment, naturalistic observation, psychological tests, interviews, questionnaires, etc.

Recognize and explain some famous psychological experiments: Stanley Milgram, Asch's line experiments, Stanford Prison Study, and many other less famous examples.

Explain the Hawthorne Effect.

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions
- Student-written questionnaire.

Unit:	Learning Theory	Duration:	1 week
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Essential Questions:

What are the basics of Behaviorism as they relate to how we learn?
How do we learn? What conditions and factors support/inhibit learning?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

Explain the basic concepts related to learning: Classical conditioning, operant conditioning, stimulus generalization, extinction, positive/negative reinforcement and different reinforcement schedules.

Apply learning theory to various aspects of everyday life.

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Motivation	Duration:	2 weeks
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Essential Questions:

Why do people do what they do?
What are all the variables and contexts we need to understand in order to explain human behavior?
Does motivation change with development?
Is everyone motivated by the same things?
How do we study motivation?
Who are the psychologists who've studied motivation?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

Recognize the incredible complexity that lies behind all human behavior.

Recognize and explain all the basic approaches to motivation: drive-reduction, arousal, incentive, instinct, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's theory of flow, and the basics of Positive Psychology

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Consciousness	Duration:	2 weeks
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Essential Questions:

What is consciousness? How do our bodies and brains (matter) produce what seems to be non-matter (mind)? What is the mind/body problem? What is the subconscious and unconscious and how do they influence experience? How do we train the conscious mind? What are the consequences of training/not training the conscious mind? How do we become aware of the subconscious and how do we use this awareness to promote psychological health? How does the unconscious affect counseling and psychotherapy? What are cognitive biases and heuristics and how do they affect our everyday lives? How does attachment and trauma affect our conscious experience and psychological health?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

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Recognize and explain the complex variables that create, contribute to, and affect our experience of subjective conscious awareness and how this influences our moods, sense of self and overall psycho/emotional health.

Recognize and explain the scientific precedents that allow us to understand consciousness as we currently do: EEGs, PET scans, blood flows, and other methods that have contributed to our understanding of neurobiology.

Discuss the famous psychologists, philosophers, and artists that have contributed to our understanding of consciousness, from Gautama Buddha to Immanuel Kant to Oliver Sacks.

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes

- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Developmental Psychology	Duration:	1 week
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Essential Questions:

What is developmental psychology? What do we need to understand about developmental psychology when dealing with infants, children, students, and adult therapeutic clients? How does psycho-emotional-cognitive development change with time, and how do we determine whether an individual developing at an expected and adaptive rate? Who contributed to the creation of developmental psychology?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...

Recognize and explain Piaget and Erikson's developmental stages and key concepts. Explain the importance of developmental concepts like: object permanence, reversibility, conservation, etc. Understand how developmental theory is integrated into each approach to psychology and psychopathology.

Common Assessments:

- Quizzes
- Short answer/essays
- Unit tests
- Class discussions

Unit:	Personality Theory	Duration:	1 week
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Essential Questions:

If time permits: how does everything we've learned so far contribute to your understanding of personality development? What are the main factors in determining personality?

Is personality even a useful concept?

What are the historically significant personality theories?

Affirmation Statements:

Students will be able to...:

Explain the basics of Freudian Theory, including: talk therapy, transference, psychosexual development, the dynamic between Id, Ego, and Super-ego, the ego defense mechanisms, the Oedipus Complex, etc.

Explain how Freudian theory influenced subsequent theories of personality (Jung, Erikson, Beck, Ellis, etc.)

Appendix

CCSS Resources

Common Core Website: <http://www.corestandards.org/read-the-standards/>

Common Core App: