

IB Psychology SL Syllabus

2024-2025

Room 12

Mr. Kevin Horwath

Galileo Magnet High School

Course Description:

Welcome to IB Psychology. I am glad that you have chosen to challenge yourself and take this course. Psychology is a fascinating but complicated branch of science to study but I will do my best to help you navigate through this interesting subject.

Instructional Philosophy:

We will work each day in class to study psychology. This will be accomplished through a variety of teaching methods, including lecture, individual and group assignments, discussions, projects, and role playing activities.

Major Course Goals:

IB Psychology at Galileo Magnet High School is designed to support students working toward a full IB diploma or for students who are seeking to obtain an IB certificate. The emphasis of the course will meet the requirements for Standard Level (SL). The psychology syllabus at SL is divided into four parts: perspectives, option topics, research methods, and simple experimental study. :

Research Methodology - The study of research methodology is compulsory. It comprises the following elements:

- Introduction to research methods
- Ethics
- Quantitative research methods

Perspectives – the following perspectives will be covered in depth:

- The biological perspective
- The cognitive perspective
- Sociocultural perspective

Option Topics – We will study one option topic from this following list and one extra topic if time permits:

- Abnormal psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Health psychology
- Psychology of human relationships

Simple Experimental Study – Students are required to plan and undertake a simple experimental study and to produce a report of their study.

Major Course Projects, Topics, and Activities:

In IB Psychology, we will study the above topics through methods that promote and incorporate the IB Learner profile. As IB learners we strive to be Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective. There will be at least one quiz each week and at least one test on each unit.

Course Assessment Plan:

The tests, quizzes, in class assignments, homework, and lab activities all are intended to help prepare you for the IB Psychology Exam. IB Standards will be used to grade all work. **Please keep in mind that if you do sign up to take the exam and do not show up, you may be required to reimburse DPS for the cost of the exam.**

Grading Scale:

Your grades in each quarter will fall into the following categories:

- **Gold Category = 40%**
 - Tests and projects
- **Silver Category = 35%**
 - Quizzes, middle level projects or essays
- **Bronze Category = 25%**
 - In class assignments, weekly journals, homework assignments, lab activities

No grades from any category will be dropped this year.

Grade Scale: We use a ten point scale, which is as follows:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

Final IB assessment grade:

Your final IB grade will be based on the following assessments:

Internal assessment (scored by instructor) – consists of a report of a simple experimental study conducted by the student. 25% of final IB grade

External assessment (scored by IB) – consists of two written papers. 75% of final IB grade.

Paper 1 on Wednesday, May 7 in the afternoon (2 hours, 50% of final IB grade) – Section A: Three compulsory questions on part 1 of the syllabus (27 marks)

Section B: Three questions on part 1 of the syllabus. Students choose one question to answer in essay form. (2 hours) 50% of final IB grade (22 marks)

Paper 2 on Thursday, May 8 in the morning (1 hour, 25% of final IB grade) – Fifteen questions on part 2 of the syllabus. Students choose **one question to answer on an option we covered.**

In order to prepare students for the essay questions, they will be scored using the following scale:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H6YrVy4e02YRGoJ5ewXfR_KmePHbjhK8_U_fE3B9LaQ/edit?usp=sharing

Class Rules and Expectations

- **Treat EVERYONE with respect.**
- **Be on time**

- Keep your cellphones/smartwatches/headphones other devices turned off and out of sight
- Bring all supplies with you to class and have your Chromebook charger
- Do your own work
- Follow the [Galileo Student Handbook](#)

Supplies Needed:

- Your Chromebook
- Pen or pencil
- A binder
- Notebook paper
- Colored pencils
- Donations (not required, but I will offer up to five points extra credit on the first test.
 - Tissues
 - Pencil packs
 - College ruled paper

Chromebooks:

You are expected to bring your Chromebook charged everyday. **If you forget your Chromebook AND need one for the day's lesson, you will be able to borrow one in the main office in exchange for your phone.**

Homework Policy:

Homework assignments that may take up to thirty minutes will be assigned periodically. Homework is expected to be completed and submitted in class on time. In addition, an optional study guide will be assigned in advance of each unit test. If you complete the study guide and turn in before taking the test, I will add 5 points to your test grade. It is recommended that you study for up to thirty minutes the night before taking a test.

Cheating/Plagiarism:

It is expected that all work completed in this course is your own work. **Papers and other major assignments completed out of class will be run through a plagiarism/AI checker. Any work that is not found to be your own will receive a score of zero with no opportunity to retake as well as a discipline referral.**

Make-up Work Policy:

It is the student's responsibility, not Mr. Horwath's, to get missing assignments when absent. Per DPS policy, you will have five days after your return to complete missed assignments following an excused absence without penalty. I recommend that you ask me the day you return to retrieve your missed assignments.

When absent the day of a test or quiz, you will be required to make the test or quiz up in class the day you return to school.

Late Work Policy*:

- All assignments will be graded in Canvas and transferred to PowerSchool each night.
- Canvas will automatically record a 0 score if an assignment is not submitted by the due date and time. In order to avoid this, for assignments completed on paper or in a program outside

Canvas, please submit a screenshot of the complete assignment or message saying that you are done.

- It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher **in writing** about the plan for submitting late work.
- Late work will be accepted up to 3 calendar days after the due date. If that date falls on the weekend/breaks/student absence, students should communicate with the teacher on submission requirements.
- No assignment will be accepted beyond three days of the original due date.
- Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 25% off of the earned grade.
 - **Late work formula calculation**→ **Student Score x 0.75 = Final Assignment Score**
 - *ie. if a student submits an assignment late and earns a 90, the late penalty would be 22.5 points deducted for a total of 67.5% grade*

**Subject to change pending a separate school-wide IB DP policy.*

Test Corrections:

I will allow students who score low on a test to correct the questions missed for a half point for each question corrected. In order to complete corrections, students must have completed all of the other assignments due for that unit (homework, in-class activities, and projects) and will only receive credit for questions that they both answer correctly and explain. For long essays, I will allow students to edit their responses to fit the criteria in the rubric.

Leaving the Room:

If you need to leave the classroom at any time during class, first ask for Mr. Horwath's permission and then create a pass in the eHallpass system. **Only one student may leave to get water or go to the bathroom at a time.**

Extra Help:

I am available to help most days before or after school if you need tutoring, remediation, or wish to retake a test. Please schedule an appointment with me in advance so that I can make sure to be available for you at a day and time that is convenient for both of us.

Contact Information:

Teacher: Kevin Horwath

Room: 12

Email: khorwath@mail.dps.k12.va.us

School phone number: 434-773-8186

I am committed to helping all of my students to succeed to the best of my ability. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at any time. I will be most available from 8:00-8:35, 11:50-1:50 (first semester planning), 8:40-10:10 (second semester planning) and 3:30-4:00 Monday through Friday. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week and by the end of the first day back to emails sent during weekends and holidays.

