

AP PSYCHOLOGY
Timberline High School
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The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

— [*Elisabeth Kübler-Ross*](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE CLASS:

I am glad you are thinking about taking AP Psychology but I have been around long enough to know that this class isn't the only thing going on in your life and definitely isn't *the* most important thing in your life right now. What *IS* the most important thing in your life right now? (**PLEASE PAUSE AND ANSWER THAT QUESTION IN YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW**)

What does this next school year mean to you? Are you stressed about what next year will be like in High School? Have you been wondering what you are going to do after high school? Are you preoccupied with a tough situation involving a loved one, or are you excited about an upcoming vacation or graduation?

The point to all of these questions is . . . *that's why we study **Psychology***. The answer to all of these questions comes also through . . . Yep, you guessed it, **Psychology!** You have a tremendous opportunity and advantage over many of your high school peers in that throughout your experience in AP Psychology you will *Learn* and *Use* the information provided in a very experiential fashion and through this opportunity it is my intention that it serve you throughout the rest of your life.

The central focus of this class revolves around the 4 goals of Psychology (to describe, understand, predict and alter behavior). Really good psychologists are both empathic counselors and objective scientists. The course objectives of this class stem from these essential goals and acknowledge this complicated role. This is a very challenging course (cognitively, emotionally, and in many other ways), but I also intend for it to be one of the most amazing/positive/enriching/life changing classes you ever take in your high school career☺.

Sincerely, K. Gonser

GRADING POLICY:

The grading scale is as follows:	90 -100% = A
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS	80 - 89% = B
WEIGHTED (a “B” on a Test would be	70 - 79% = C
an “A” in other non AP classes).	60 - 69% = D

For **each quarter of the school year** you can expect:

- 3-5 Tests & Projects (Format for tests will be discussed during reviews but expect Mult. Choice questions, Vocabulary definitions and Free Response essays)
- Frequent Quizzes on the notes/textbook reading and vocabulary.
- Free Response writes on various Units (practice for the AP Exam)
- Homework- There will be a wide variety of homework assignments: reading and taking notes and/or answering questions from the text book, etc. because of this being a full year class, I will do my best to spread out the homework and make it manageable. Your job will be to stay on top of it and *get Er done!*

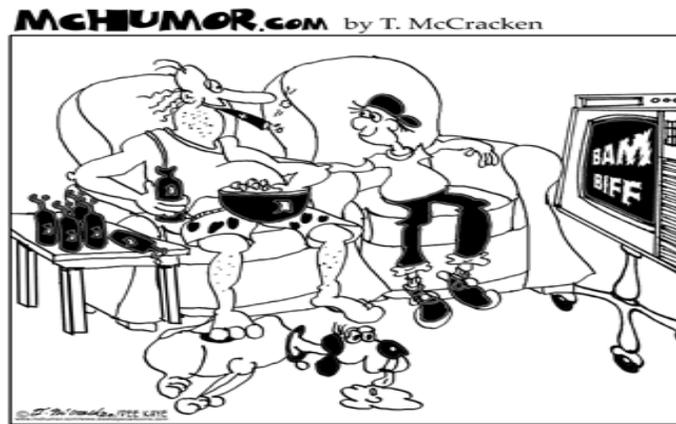
TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS . . .

Positive Attitude and Strong Work Ethic

If you come to into this class prepared, both with required materials (**completed assignments/readings**) and a positive, curious and focused mindset you will be very successful in the AP class. *Note, Much of what we will do in class will be based on the work you do at home.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce and familiarize students with those researchers and theorist who have contributed significantly to the field of psychology.
2. To understand and apply the basic theories and research in psychology to the students' lives.
3. To reinforce problem solving, critical thinking skills, and communication skills
4. To gain a basic understanding of the principles of human learning.
5. Students will wrestle with the ethical issues and enduring questions addressed by psychologists.
6. To understand the interaction that exists between how the individual is influenced by their environment, and how they in turn influence that environment.
7. To understand the complex field of developmental psychology, focusing on the areas of cognitive, social, moral, physical and emotional growth.
8. To be prepared to take and pass the Advanced Placement Psychology Examination.
9. Students will apply psychological principles to their own life by developing the ability to examine their decisions and relationships in a reflective and sensitive manner.



"No Timmy, we're different from the animals.
We have a purpose in life."