

PSYCHOLOGY-DIPLOMA PROGRAM
11th Grade

Course Description:

Psychology

Psychology is the rigorous and systematic study of mental processes and behavior. It is a complex subject which draws on concepts, methods and understandings from a number of different disciplines. There is no single approach that would describe or explain mental processes and behavior on its own as human beings are complex animals, with highly developed frontal lobes, cognitive abilities, involved social structures and cultures. The study of behavior and mental processes requires a multidisciplinary approach and the use of a variety of research techniques whilst recognizing that behavior is not a static phenomenon, it is adaptive, and as the world, societies and challenges facing societies change, so does behavior.

At the core of the DP psychology course is an introduction to three different approaches to understanding behavior:

- [biological approach to understanding behavior](#)
- [cognitive approach to understanding behavior](#)
- [sociocultural approach to understanding behavior.](#)

The knowledge, concepts, theories and research that have developed the understanding in these fields will be studied and critically evaluated to answer some of the questions being asked by psychologists today. Furthermore, the interaction of these approaches to studying psychology will form the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to understanding mental processes and behavior as a complex, dynamic phenomenon, allowing students to appreciate the diversity as well as the commonality between their own behavior and that of others.

The contribution and the interaction of the three approaches can be best understood through the options. There are four options in the course. They focus on areas of applied psychology:

- [abnormal psychology](#)
- [developmental psychology](#)
- [health psychology](#)
- [psychology of human relationships.](#)

The options provide an opportunity to take what is learned from the study of the approaches to psychology and put it into the context of specific lines of inquiry, broaden students' experience of the discipline and develop the students' critical inquiry skills.

Surrounding the approaches and the options are the overarching themes of research and ethics. A consideration of both is paramount to the nature of the subject.

Psychologists employ a range of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, in order to test their observations and hypotheses. As a part of the core syllabus, DP psychology promotes an understanding of the various [approaches to research](#) and how they have been used in order to

critically reflect on the evidence as well as assist in the design, implementation, analysis and evaluation of the students' own investigations.

Psychology studies human beings and as such it is paramount that the ethical implications in any line of investigation, and at all points in the course, are fully explored and understood to ensure that [ethical guidelines](#) are followed at all times.

Course Outline

- 0. Introduction to psychology*
- 1. Approaches to researching behaviour*
- 2. Biological approach to understanding behaviour*
- 3. Cognitive approach to understanding behaviour*
- 4. Sociocultural approach to understanding behaviour*
- 5. Abnormal psychology*
- 6. Psychology of human relationships*
- 7. Developmental psychology*
- 8. Health psychology*
- 9. Internal assessment*

Internal Assessment

Internal assessment is an integral part of the course and is compulsory for both SL and HL students. It enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge, and to pursue their personal interests without the time limitations and other constraints that are associated with written examinations. The internal assessment should, as far as possible, be woven into normal classroom teaching and not be a separate activity conducted after the course has been taught.

The internal assessment requirements at SL and at HL are the same. Students will investigate a published study, theory or model relevant to their learning in psychology by conducting an experimental investigation and reporting the findings.

Course Schedule:

Semester 1:

Unit 1-Intro to Psychology

Approaches to Researching Behavior

Unit 2-Biological Approach to Understanding Behavior

Unit 3-Cognitive Approach to Understanding Behavior

Section 3a and 3 b

Homework:

Reading and researching/summarizing

Assessment:

Formative Assessment-20% of grade

Quizzes, short writings, case study summaries

Summative Assessment-80% of grade

Research papers and complex case study summaries-

There will be a summative assessment with each Unit studied

Submission Guidelines:

Managebac and One Note will be used.

Most formative assessments and all summative assessments will posted on Managebac

Most assignments will be submitted on Managebac, some formative will be on One Note.

Late Policy-Work for a unit must be handed in 1 week before the end of a unit. Students are always welcome to revise work they have already handed in-there is no penalty for revisions.

However, if work is not handed in 1 week before the end of a chapter, we will peer grade this work *together as a class*.

Late work must be emailed or directly handed to me.

If you know you will be missing a quiz or test, please speak to me about taking it early.

If you are absent unexpectedly, documentation is needed for the absence.

It is your responsibility to notify me to ask for work you have missed.

****Guidelines in this syllabus are subject to change****

Zero Tolerance Policies

Willows Preparatory School has zero tolerance for alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons, age-inappropriate material, graffiti and repeated instances of bullying behavior. If any students are found in possession of or engaging in any related activities of the above, whether on campus and/or during school hours, appropriate referrals will be made and consequences/outcomes will be documented on the student's file.

Consequences

Any student misconduct will be documented and may result in the following:

- A referral to Head of School or Assistant Head of School
- Support services through Counselor referral
- Meeting with parent, teacher, and administration
- Probation from extracurricular activities or other privileges (i.e. sport, clubs, lunch outside)
- Restricted use of facilities

Misconduct issues of a more serious nature, such as those related to zero tolerance policies include:

- Suspension – You are expected to keep up with your schoolwork during this time, as no allowances will be made in this regard.
- Expulsion – You are permanently disenrolled from Willows Preparatory School

Technology

Every student at WPS has their own Microsoft Surface. WPS's official Laptop/Technology Policy is found at the end of this document.

Teacher-Student E-mail Communication

You have the opportunity to reach out to teachers and staff using email; however, when applicable, face-to-face communication is preferred. Student email addresses should only be used for communication about academic issues or to ask questions in a respectful and professional manner. Students are expected to check email on a daily basis. If a student receives an email or message from another student that is confusing or inappropriate, please notify a teacher or staff member immediately. Willows Preparatory School reserves the right to access all WPS student emails, reset all passwords, and if necessary, suspend all email activity.

Cell Phones and smart devices

We understand that cell phones and other smart devices are an essential part of daily life. Smart watches while linked to cell phones are considered cell phones. Please make sure that the watches are on Do Not Disturb mode during the school day. Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school each day subject to the following conditions:

- Cell phones should remain OFF when students are present on the school campus. Cell phones must be stored in book bags during the 1st semester (or for however long COVID-19 Handbook guidelines are in place) or in student lockers.
- Students may use their cell phones to contact parents upon request. All authorized cell phone use must occur at the Front Desk in the main building and/or under the supervision of an administrator or teacher.

If a member of staff can see or hear a cell phone, the phone will be confiscated and turned over to the front desk. Confiscated phones will be returned at the end of that school day from the front desk after a parent is

notified about the violation of this policy. All incidents are documented and recorded—repeat violations may result in additional consequences.

In case of a personal emergency on campus (illness, personal situation, etc.) the student’s first line of contact is a staff member. In family emergency situations, parents should contact the front office if they need to reach a student.

Classroom Computer Use

Laptops will be used regularly in class for lessons, notes, and activities. Students should not be checking emails, grades, chatting via Teams, or any other activities on their computer unless the teacher has given them permission. If a student is found not using a computer appropriately, the computer will be taken away until the end of class and the following will take place:

- 1st Time: A warning from administration.
- 2nd Time: An email sent home to parents.
- 3rd Time: Meet with administration and discuss possible repercussions.

WPS Students will no longer be allowed to use headphones for personal use in any place of the school building unless a) the headphones are being used for specific class content (i.e. sound editing a video for a project); or b) they are being used before or after school hours (8:30am-3:30pm). Students should not have Spotify or any other streaming music program on their school computers.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by September 10, 2021

