**PSYCHOLOGY 12 COURSE OUTLINE**

“[**The important thing is not to stop questioning.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/1433.html)**”http://www.quotationspage.com/icon_blank.gif**

~ Albert Einstein

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| **Mrs. L. Gerber Room 124**  **Google Classroom Code: t5ba7b**  **Email:** [**lisa.gerber@learn.sd23.bc.ca**](mailto:lisa.gerber@learn.sd23.bc.ca)  **Website:** [**https://mrslgerber.weebly.com/**](https://mrslgerber.weebly.com/) |  |

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| **GOALS, RATIONALE, PHILOSOPHY**  **Psychology is the study of what defines a human being. Behavior, biology, and social forces act upon the individual and have their part to play in developing the person we think of as "I".**  **This course will explore topics in the study of the human mind and the forces that help shape it into the organ that determines our individual natures. What students will gain from this course is an understanding of the underlying reasons for human behaviour. By doing so, they will also be able to appreciate with enhanced significance the meaning and reason behind their own actions and the actions of others.** |

**The course will be highly interactive,** and one which will require the students to be prepared to present information to the class, to participate willingly, positively, and enthusiastically in class discussions. **Students will consistently be encouraged to turn judgment into curiosity, and should be supportive of one another’s opinions and willingness to speak.** Students are asked to work cooperatively in the preparation, research and presentation of group projects. **It is this teacher's expectation that all students will be both respectful and responsible throughout the course. This includes the mature use and self-regulation of cell phones! If this becomes an issue, you will be required to leave your phone elsewhere.**

# EVALUATION

* **Class Participation (20%)** – You are expected to **actively, respectfully, and positively** participate in class discussions and activities. Evaluation of this portion of the class will come from the monitoring of discussions, questions, answers, level of involvement, positive attitude, willingness to learn, active and constructive contributions to group work, etc. Due to the participatory nature of this class, attendance is essential to learning, and many activities will not be replicated for those with unexcused absences.
* **Classwork and assignments (30%)** – In addition to regular classwork and assignments, you will be expected to actively present information at various times during the semester. This may occur individually, in partners, or as a small group. The teacher will choose the groups most often.
* **Curiosity Question (10%) –** Each student will choose/be given a date in which they will come prepared with a genuine question of curiosity. The student will have pondered, researched, and be able to explain their interest in their question of choice and how the question relates to psychology. They will provide resource material when necessary. If you miss your assigned date, do not assume you will be able to present next class, you must schedule a new time! This task is crucial to getting a top mark!
* **Journals (30%)**  – You will be given a journaling notebook at the beginning of the semester. The intention of this notebook is that it will stand as a significant part of your contribution to the learning process. The journal is meant to be a means of recording your thoughts, opinions and reactions to the various topics we discuss (as well as thoughts about your observations, questions, life outside of the classroom). Thus, consistent journaling is a crucial component of this course.
* **Tests/Quizzes (10%)** – Though not often, there will be the occasional quiz or test on material we have covered.

**GRADING:** A variety of assessment methods will be utilized including formal and informal, teacher assessments, peer assessments, and self-assessments.

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| * **A+ (95-100%) – All of this criteria fulfilled all of the time.** * **A (90-94%) – Most of this criteria met most of the time.** * **A- (86-89%) – Most of this criteria met; problems in one area – analyze and explain problem area at reporting time.** * **B+ (80-85%) – Some of this criteria met; distinct, identifiable weakness in some areas- analyze and explain at reporting time.** * **B – (73-79%) – Some criteria met; inconsistent behavior; trouble with self-regulating; few attempts to work on exercising and applying psychological topics/theories – analyze and provide explanation at each reporting period.** * **C + (67-72%) – Few criteria met; trouble focusing; little interest in topics and no attempt to suggest or communicate methodology that would work better for you – analyze and explain your behavior at reporting time.** * **C (60-66%) – Several missed classes for dishonorable reasons; few attempts to keep in touch with teacher or classmates; little attempt to analyze, discuss or learn from life.** |

# COURSE TOPICS: Time may not allow us to study every one of these topic areas in depth. If time becomes an issue we will determine topics according to interest level

1. **History and Schools of Psychological Thought** –psychology’s roots, various contemporary psychological perspectives: cognitive, biological, social-cultural, behavioral, humanistic, psychodynamic (Note that this is review from grade 11 Psych.)
2. **The Biological Bases of Behaviour** – explore the nervous system, the brain and how they are involved in human behavior.
3. **Life Span Development –** prenatal and childhood development; physical, cognitive and social development in adolescence; and adulthood and aging
4. **Altered States of Consciousness and Addiction –** examining biological bases of certain drugs and the altered states of consciousness they produce as well as the disease of addiction.
5. **Motivation, Emotion, Stress and Health –** looking at biological and historical explanations of motivation, theories of emotion and the effects of stress on behavior.