***AP Psychology AND Psych I & II , 2022-23***

**Anne Fitzsimmons**

***Welcome to Psychology!***

I have been teaching in the Amphi district for 35 years. THIRTY-FIVE!!! Dinosaur-status! I completed my master’s degree in secondary education at the University of Arizona after earning my bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio back in the days of acid-wash and big hair. I switched majors several times and as I was running out of time and money, I chose Psychology, setting my sights on working in the field of research and statistics. Toward the tail-end of my college career, I finally had to admit to myself that I wanted to teach....something in the humanities...anything, but preferably Psychology. Now, after many...MANY years, I am privileged to do something I have always wanted to do.

***Course Description & Overview \****

# SEMESTER I SEMESTER 2

Motivation & Emotion Learning, Memory, Cognition, & Language

Personality, Intelligence, &Testing Sensation & Perception

Developmental Psychology (Human Lifespan) Social Psychology

Biological Bases of Behavior (The Brain) Research Methods

& States of Consciousness Clinical Psychology (Disorders & Treatment)

## *(AP test review for AP students- about 3 hours outside of class)*

***\*I rearrange the order of units from year to year, making sure each semester has interesting units in them. And throughout the year, I will cover the obligatory “History of Psychology” portion of the course.***

***Textbooks***

AP: Psychology, 7th edition, David G. Myers, Worth Publishers, 2004 (It’s the RED book) OR Myers’ Psychology for the AP Course, David G. Myers & C. Nathan DeWall, Worth Publishers, 2019. (We might not have enough of the 2019 books and I am not confident more will be ordered in time for an August 2022 start, but it’s ok. I know what I’m doing. 😊 )

Psych I & II Understanding Psychology, Richard A. Kasschau, Glencoe McGraw-Hill (It’s the MUSTARD-colored book)

***State Standards***

There are no state Standards for teaching Psychology in Arizona, but the American Psychological Association provides a detailed set of national standards for the teaching of high school psychology. Log on to **http://www.apa.org** for a complete updated description. The College Board has prescribed a list of 9 specific areas of study for Advanced Placement Psychology. You can see all of them in the “Course Description & Overview.” If you’re taking AP Psych, expect to devote an addition 2-3 hours of study session time at the end of April and beginning of May. I will provide a calendar with times that include after school, Saturdays and Sundays. Everyone will need to find a couple of hours to do what’s necessary to ace the AP test and earn some college credit.

For Psychology I and II, I follow the same standards as the AP class- same content, same order, same notes, lectures, demonstrations, video clips, personality inventories, etc… but less pressure- no tedious multiple-choice questions or long essays. The only thing I leave out for Psych I & II is the statistics part. You WILL work, but I guarantee you’ll find some of it interesting or even…..fun?

***Making Contact***

Feel free to contact me at **afitzsim@amphi.com** or in the classroom at 407-4111. I keep my classroom phone on “forward” during the school day, but try to return calls as soon as I see the red light and am able to check my messages. Most of the time, e-mail is faster.

***Advisory Period***

Use it. I am at your service-- available for make-up tests and quizzes, study hall, a place of refuge, whatever. BUT: I teach a 1st period class and will not be available during the morning Advisory. Wednesdays are it unless you make other arrangements with me. I’m flexible.

***Cheating***

Cheating is wrong. Avoid it. The updated policy is outlined in the handbook. Read it. Just don’t do it. Retain your dignity, integrity and self-respect; those things and the knowledge you gain and self-esteem you earn from working are worth way more than points in this life. Your best bet? Don’t give me the slightest reason to think you might cheat or have cheated. Building back trust will take the rest of the year, much longer than the time it takes to apologize. If I DO catch a student cheating, they will receive a zero on the assignment (no 50% mercy) and an office referral, which goes on your record.

***Tardiness Policy***

I will mark you tardy if you come in after the bell rings. If you are habitually late and speaking with you about it doesn’t remedy the behavior pattern, I’ll write a referral. If you have an excessive number of “tardies” during a semester, I will **not** entertain the idea of “rounding up” if you are on the edge of the next, better grade. It’s…uh……..a psychological boost for you when I see you in class on time. 😊

***Excused & Unexcused Absence Work Policy***

As in the real world, if one ‘ditches” from their job, he/she must figure out how to compensate in the most polite and respectful fashion, if one doesn’t want his/her performance review to suffer. Your responsibility is to log into Schoology to find out what you missed and DO IT. If you don’t understand what you’re supposed to do, shoot me an email or talk to me after class when you return. I will not hound students for missing or late work; it’s their job to keep up, especially now that we have an online outlet for information- SCHOOLOGY. Make it your friend. You have a week from the time you return to class and after that, 50% will be recorded in the gradebook.

***Grading & Make-Up Work Policies***

Grades are determined by student performance on tests, quizzes, homework, writing, class work, and projects on a total points basis. Each item is assigned a fair and proportional number of points and the overall grade is determined as an overall percentage, which corresponds to the standard letters grade: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D. I frequently enter grades into the Tyler system so whenever parents and students can gain access to it, please feel free to check anytime. It’ll take me a few days to score essays, but for everything else, I am very prompt. I STRONGLY encourage students to check their grades to double-check ME—I am sure I’ll make some mistakes and you don’t want it to be YOU, right? ☺ If I don’t KNOW that I’ve messed something up, I can’t fix it quickly. DO I ROUND UP? The Amphi district pre-set the gradebook to round up at .5% so there’s no need to ask me. I usually include bonus questions on quizzes and even tests and might offer a task as extra credit to all students, but I DO NOT create extra credit for individual students because they want a higher grade.

***Also, at the direction of the Amphi district, all work that is missing, incomplete or poorly done will score a 50%. Students will still have to work for A’s and B’s and even C’s, but there is a built-in cushion for students to help them stay in the game, if things fall apart academically. I am required to enter 50% for work even though a student did not do it or turn it in.***

***Additionally, all students will have an extra week to turn in work- a built-in grace period that is left over from the Covid-closure era. I will honor it, but after that week, late work receives only 50% with no possibility of doing it for more points.***

***Miss a test or quiz?*** Students are responsible for making up missed tests and quizzes within a week of missing class. They must come in during Advisory to complete the work OR make arrangements with me for another opportunity AHEAD of time. I won’t hound students about it, but the responsibility is on their shoulders to get it done.

***Miss class and don’t know what to do?*** I will post descriptions of the work we do in class EVERY DAY before 3 p.m. so absent students can catch up easily and autonomously. Log into Schoology for your class. When I master Schoology, I will be posting my notes and links to complementary video clips. If you print out my notes, that’s fine, but just printing and having my notes is meaningless unless you read the book and annotate my notes with your own understanding.

***Late Work:*** For work assigned in class and due in class, there is no extra week’s worth of grace. If a student needs a little more time, we can negotiate and set the due date for the next day, in most cases. That means that the week extension will not apply. If I assign homework, then the extra week is valid. I notice students’ work ethics and I’ll just add that if you refrain from the temptation to “game the system”, I will totally respect that. The assignments that I ask of students are designed to help them understand and practice with the content of the class. If they didn’t mean something, I wouldn’t assign them. So, you can see how it’s painful to watch students “game” it.

***Behavior Basics***

In cases of general classroom disruption or disrespect, I’ll start with a quick reminder and if it continues, I will speak with the student privately. All reprimands and conversations will be documented if the behavior/attitude persists, in which case I will ask administration to assist me. I have not written a referral since the turn of the century. Don’t ruin this for me. ☺ Here’s my best effort for a list of rules:

\* Be humane

*\* No noisy food or liquid that stains. If you spill something, YOU will clean it up and then donate paper towels to me. If you have goldfish, I am going to eat them. Sorry. Not sorry.*

\* Don’t put earbuds in during class. I know EVERYTHING ELSE is more interesting than me but it’s your job to cope with the boredom in a respectful manner. Adulting=coping with boredom. Ask your parents.

*\* Cell phones. I will try my 27th new idea to deal with phones this year and I will fail. Then I will complain to my colleagues about it while I’m checking my messages on my own phone during a faculty meeting. I CAN tell you that you will have to surrender your phones during tests and significant quizzes. Be prepared for that.*

*\**Laugh at my dumb jokes

*For your first grade of the semester, please sign this form to indicate that you have reviewed this syllabus and get the general gist. (5 points) For another 5 points, have a parent or guardian sign it for the same reason. Return this page to me by* ***Friday, August 12th*** *for a total of 10 points on your first assignment. Easy points! I will also sign it because I mean everything I’ve said here and these policies have helped to keep everything running fairly smoothly for 35 years. 😊*

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Print your first and last name (student)

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Sign your name (student)

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Parent/guardian signature



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Teacher

