**Psychology Syllabus**

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Course Description:   
The Social Studies Department at DeWitt HS is dedicated to using best practices to provide our students with exemplary social science education. We will assist our students in becoming responsible citizens by focusing on the geographic, social, political and economic forces that have shaped the world we live in today. We will use available technology and data-driven instruction to provide equity and excellence for every student.*In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore human behavior and mental processes on a scientific basis. Students will be expected to use scientific research methods to explore topics such as human development, personality, mental health, and social and biological explanations of behavior.*

Text: *Psychology: Principles in Practice, 2010. Spencer A. Rathus, Holt McDougal.*

Required Supplies:

2-inch or more three ring binder

Straight-edged notebook paper

Pencil, Blue, or Black ink pen ONLY

Composition Notebook

Grades

Grades will consist of several types of assessment. They will include but not be limited to tests, vocabulary, notebook upkeep and checks, weekly Word Appreciation assignments and writings. **Two types of points will be given–test points and “classroom” points.**  Because of their obvious importance, test grades will count for 2/3 of the total grade in this class. Classroom points may include unit vocabulary, notes, occasional homework assignments, notebook checks each semester, and other means of determining understanding. Classroom grades will count for the remaining 1/3 of the total points of the grades given in this class. It is in the student’s best interest to keep up with the classroom points and do his or her very best on tests.

Types of Assessment: **PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE, PARENTS!**

***A. Vocabulary/Terms***

At the beginning of each chapter, a list of terms will be given to the student who will be responsible for using the various resources within the classroom in order to find the definitions to these terms. The student will not be allowed to take these home as homework, and all terms will need to be finished during regular classroom time. Students will often work together to generate their own version of the definition of certain terms. Writing will be required and thesis statements of a questioning and argumentative nature will be devised. Generally students will receive one classroom period for every 25 vocabulary items of the unit or chapter. Some lists will be lengthy and every vocabulary/term assignment will count as a classroom grade and then as part of the student’s semester notebook grade.

***B. Notes***

Students WILL BE EXPECTED to take notes in this classroom. MANY subjects that will be discussed in the classroom will not be in the book. It is important to pay attention at all times and take COMPLETE notes and study them thoroughly for tests. The chapter’s important material will be completely contained in the notes that are given to the students. A review sheet of important information will be given before each and every test.

***C. Notebook***

As said previously, students will be required to take notes in class. Each student will be required to keep all of these notes, handouts, and assignments in a three ring binder, along with the syllabus, rules, and agenda for this classroom. All assignments and tests will be written on straight-edged paper in pencil, or blue or black ink. Each semester, this notebook will be graded for a total of 200 points.

***D. Tests***

Tests will consist of define, list, explain, compare and contrast, fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. It is VERY important to take careful and COMPLETE notes and study them thoroughly for tests. As writing and literacy are very important aspects of a complete education and the state of Arkansas is requiring “writing across the curricula” and stressing literacy scoring, writing will be a vital part of this class and the tests that are taken in this class. Many tests will consist of writing assignments.

***\*\*E. Composition Notebook***

This assignment will be for the student to complete on his or her own time and IN CLASS. Questions will be posed to the student to facilitate critical thinking and writing skills. These assignments are REQUIRED and must be done or the student will receive a zero.

***\*\*F. Word Knowledge***

This assignment will be for the student to complete on his or her own time. The purpose of the assignment is to familiarize the student with advanced vocabulary words in order to further his or her use of advanced thinking, speaking, and writing. These words may or may not be history-related. The assignment is due each Thursday as the student walks into the classroom. The assignment consists of four advanced vocabulary words which are written on the board each Monday. The student will fully define each word and write two sentences using each word in the correct manner. I prefer that the sentences be original and constructed by the student and about the student in some manner (as opposed to finding the sentence on the internet and copying it.) Each definition will be worth ten points and each sentence worth five.

**This totals 100 points per week**.

***G. Other Assignments***

From time to time other assignments may be given to enrich or reinforce the learning in the classroom. These may consist of projects, writings, research papers, artworks, etc.

Grading Scale

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-below F

Comments:

All work and material in this course follows the current standards and framework guidelines for the state of Arkansas Curriculum Framework and follows “Common Core” guidelines. This course counts for one of the electives in social studies.