



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

**PSY 205: FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR**  
**Fall 2014**

**School:** Verona High School

**Instructor:** Ms. Schram

**Email:** jschram@veronaschools.org

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.*

*- Robert M. Hutchins*

This is an introductory psychology course that surveys the basic principles and research findings within the major areas of psychology, including learning, memory, cognition, development, personality, and social psychology. Students will be presented with opportunities to conduct their own research and to discuss current topics, events, real-life experiences, and applications of psychological theories and research. The course also provides a degree of freedom for students to pursue individual topics of interest.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. *Students will demonstrate an understanding of theoretical perspectives in psychology, research methods used to test hypotheses, and key terms, concepts, and principles associated with major topics in psychology.*
  - To meet this objective students will need to read the textbook, outline the material and/or take notes, and actively participate in class. Evidence of mastery of this objective will stem largely from examination performance.
2. *Students will learn to access, critically read, and evaluate in writing, a journal article of a psychological study.*
  - Students will be taught how to find and critically read an article of interest.
  - Students will conduct a group research study in which they will need to read and evaluate research articles.
3. *Students will complete at least 10 pages of written work, and will receive written and oral feedback on both psychological content and technical aspects of writing.*
  - To meet this objective students will write multiple 1-2-page essays and a 5-page research report. These are minimum page requirements, and students are free to exceed these guidelines. Students are encouraged to turn drafts in early to get constructive feedback.

4. *Students will learn how to conduct psychological research.*
  - Students will be required to be part of a research team that conducts a psychological study. Students will be taught to summarize literature, formulate hypotheses, develop methods to test hypotheses, define and measure key variables, collect and analyze data, and write a research report on the findings.
  
5. *Students will critically evaluate issues presented in class and the text.*
  - A major goal of class discussion is to share ideas with one another, such that you critically analyze multiple viewpoints and weigh research evidence regarding behavioral science knowledge. Students will meet this objective through active discussion in class and through postings to the online discussion board.
  
6. *Students will analyze psychological issues using multicultural perspectives.*
  - This objective will be addressed in all aspects of the course, including lecture, readings, recitation discussions, and writing assignments. Students are encouraged to enrich the course with information from and about various cultures.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Your grade is determined by performance on a variety of assignments: multiple choice exams, writing essays, research project, and class participation. While we will be using a total point system, different types of assignments are weighted more heavily than others.

As students in this class you will earn a grade from Syracuse University (if you officially register for the course) and another grade from Verona High School. While these grades will be very similar to each other, they may not be exactly the same. Each school has slightly different grading policies that must be followed.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Multiple Choice Tests	60%
Essay Quizzes	5%
Article Reviews	5%
Research Project	20%
Participation	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Multiple Choice Tests-** tests will be given after the completion of every two or three chapters in the textbook. These tests will cover material from the readings and class lectures. Study guides will be provided to help students prepare for these exams.

**Essay Quizzes-** Essay quizzes will be completed in-class in conjunction with your multiple choice tests. The essay questions will be based on information from your textbook and class discussion. Each essay should be approximately two pages in length. You will be told what

chapter(s) to study for the quiz and will be given several potential questions a week before, one of which will be your quiz question.

**Article Reviews-** Students will access, read, and analyze at least two psychological research articles from professional journals. The first article will be provided by Ms. Schram, the second article (and potentially third) will be of the student's choosing and should relate to the research project topic.

**Group Research Project-** The major on-going assignment for this class involves a group research project and individual paper. Completion of this paper requires you to be a member of a research group. Each group will develop and run its own research study. The options for the research paper are located in the last section of this manual. While you will be working in a large group, **each of you is responsible for writing your own paper**. Each group member's paper will be similar, but you each need to put the information in your own words and add your interpretations and critical analysis. **Anyone suspected of plagiarism (or using another person's paper) will be asked to orally defend the content of the paper. Academic dishonesty will result in severe penalties.**

Each student will be responsible for gathering and reading literature, discussing and refining the research hypothesis and methods, analyzing data, discussing the findings, and writing the entire project. The data can be collected by the team and any statistical manipulations will be kept relatively basic.

The paper will be written according to APA style (see guidelines in later section), and it needs to be five typed pages (double-spaced) in length. This paper is comprised of at least 5 pages of text not counting the title page, graphs and tables, or references.

**Participation-** Homework assignments, discussion board responses, in-class activities, and other smaller assignments will all count towards the class participation grade. There will be regular Discussion Board assignments and you are expected to react to the article, question, topic, etc. that is posted. Your post must be well written, thoughtful, and be at least one paragraph long. **No late discussion board posts will be graded!** The time frame on those is absolute - you need to be responsible for checking online!

<p><b>Late Assignments-</b> This is a college level course and you are expected to stay on top of your required work and be checking the assignment page on Ms. Schram's webpage. Except for in the case of absences, late homework assignments <b>will not be accepted!</b></p>
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### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

As per school policy, you have 2 school days for every absence to make up assignments. If you are absent it is your responsibility to check Ms. Schram's webpage for any missed assignments and complete them. All tests **MUST** be made up within 2 days of your absence – you will have plenty of advance warning when there is a test scheduled and will not be given additional time.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment, an administrative write-up, and a phone call home. Any additional infractions will result in the

intervention of the administration. Examples of cheating/plagiarizing include, but are not limited to, copying another student's assignment/exam, letting another student copy your assignment/exam, and copying the written work of another author without giving proper credit.