

## **Introduction to Psychology**

Instructor: Gregory Garcia

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/apps4pps.net/mr-garcia-s-quaker-quarterdeck/intro>

**Course Description:** Students will learn psychological principles and participate in numerous learning activities and demonstrations. We will explore topics such as the perception of self, behaviorism, altered states of consciousness ---including sleep, dreams and the usefulness of hypnosis--- advertising, love and happiness. We will spend the year exploring one main question ---why do people do the things they do?

### **Schedule of topics/units covered:**

1. History of Psychology, Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic Perspective: How are we affected by unconscious drives and conflicts? How do early life experiences and relationships explain the dynamics of behavior?
2. The Brain: A User Guide: How does the brain grow overtime? How does the brain encode information? How are our cognitive processes influenced by society, culture and biology?
3. Growing Up: How do people grow over time? How do they develop psychologically based on their age? How do cultures and other outside factors influence this growth in addition to the biological factors?
4. Social/Cultural Psychology: To what extent is our behavior a function of our social and cultural surroundings?
5. Perception and States of Consciousness: How is it possible that our brains and minds can make sense of it all? How does the mind groups and categorize all the things you experience? What mental and cognitive processes are at work while we are awake? What happens to our minds when we are asleep? Why do we need sleep? Does hypnosis really work?
6. Clinical (Abnormal) Psychology Perspective: What are the distinctions between normal and abnormal behavior, and how do psychologists define and treat abnormal behavior? What is problematic about defining what is "normal"?

### **Differentiation/Accessibility Strategies and Supports (TAG, ELL, SpEd. Other):**

The differentiation strategies used in this course are based on evidence (data) received through multiple forms of pre, ongoing and formative assessments. Described here are the types of assessments used and specific differentiation strategies in place to meet the needs of ALL learners (including TAG, ESL, Special Ed.,)

- \* Use of audio and video
- \* Experimental Exercises-Simulations and Role Plays
- \* Writing for Understanding
- \* Problem Solving Group Work
- \* Flexible Grouping

- \* Depth and complexity extensions—Honors options, additional readings and activities
- \* Tiered lessons-lecture, reading, discussion activities, writing and projects.

**Assessment/Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

20% Daily work journals, reflections, note-taking, quizzes, notebook check

30% Quizzes

50% Summative Assessment Papers, Projects, Short Essay, Unit Exams

90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69=D, 0-59%=F

**Special Tutorial:** To help students develop their analytical skills Mr. García guarantees his availability at least once a week independent of the tutorial schedule. Mr. García's special tutorial happens every Wednesday from 3:15-5:00+ in SS-227.

**Quiz/Test Retake Policy:** **ANY** test or quiz can be retaken **ONCE**. It is the responsibility of the student to first meet with Mr. García (during special or regular tutorial) so that he can discuss where the student "went wrong" and thus the student has a better chance at improving on the retake.

**Psych-Out Activities:** Students can apply their knowledge in class to real world situations through Psych-Out Activities. Through these activities, students can do anything from designing advanced cerebral cortexes for cyborgs to treating the symptoms of zombie viruses from shows they see on television to analyzing personality typologies and using social psychological theories to plan for an impending apocalypse **and many many more! For honors credit, you need to complete 6 Psych-Out Activities (any combo of activities) per semester.**

**Cell Phone Policy:** Since Cell Phones and other electronics can enhance the educational experience **when used properly**, Mr García allows the use of electronics **under certain designated ("Tech Okay") times. Cell phones are not allowed during warmup or debriefing (last 20 minutes of class) time.** Students will know when it is appropriate to use their electronics because Mr. García goes out of his way --using a speech you will know by heart at the end of the semester-- to let you know when cell phones are okay to use.

**Appropriate Cell Phone Behavior:** Cell phones can be used for research purposes (finding facts for puzzles and Psych Out activities) and you can listen to music while you work **provided you have earbuds.** You like your jam, your classmates may like your jam and even Mr. García may like your jam but, please be courteous and keep your music to yourself. **Phone Calls:** Cell phones must be kept on silent/vibrate **at all times.** If you are expecting a phone call, please let Mr. García know before class and when you receive the call signal to Mr. García and he will allow you to take the call in the hallway **provided you are within eyesight.**

**Inappropriate Cell Phone Behavior: Cell phones may NOT be used for Games/Social Media purposes (Including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) AT ANY TIME.** If a student leaves class while taking a phone call (going beyond eyesight and never returning), his/her/their cell phone privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action may be instigated if a valid explanation is not given by the student. Having electronics out during inappropriate (“Tech Away”) times will result in subtle reminders to put the device away.

**Enforcement of Cell Phone Policy:** Mr. García will constructively work with you to satisfy your electronic needs (i.e. subtle reminders, allowing you to take calls in the hallway, etc.) while maintaining a respectful and functional classroom environment. **Usually,** these solutions do not result in the confiscation of electronics. If, however, a diplomatic solution cannot be reached, the device in question will be confiscated and the school’s disciplinary process goes into full effect. Mr. García can count the number of times this has happened on one hand in his entire career of teaching.

**Bathroom Policy:** One person at a time. Unless it is an emergency, bathroom use is not allowed during the warmup and debriefing times. Since the bathroom is located so far away from the classroom, you are allowed 10-15 minutes for bathroom use. Trips to the bathroom lasting longer than 15 minutes requires an explanation. **Bathroom trips lasting longer than 20 minutes will result in security being called because at that point something is clearly wrong.** In that event, the spare pass will be used so others can still go.

**Food/Drink Policy:** Mr. García will provide food for you. At the end of the week and on special occasions, Mr. García will provide Cheetos. (If you prefer a different kind of “premium snack food” please let Mr. García know and he’ll see what he can do). You can bring your own as well. That being said, please make efforts to keep the classroom clean. **If you brought it to your desk, you throw it out when it’s done.** Drinks are allowed **if and only if the drinks have lids.**

**Answering Questions/Handling “the Floor:”** When someone is officially recognized by Mr. García, please be respectful to that person by not having side conversations and giving that person your attention. If you would like to add something, please raise your hand. **PLEASE TREAT ALL POINTS OF VIEW WITH RESPECT. No sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or otherwise derogatory language. This is not just good school policy, it’s good Psychology.** The more perspectives we have, the more our psychological understanding grows. As a major Trekkie, Mr. García runs his classes with the philosophy of **Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations,** the ideology of the United Federation of Planets (Earth’s government in the 24th Century) where wonder replaces judgment.

**Mr. García's Famous Weekly Raffle:** Mr. García has reached out to organizations across the country for donated materials. At the end of the week, **provided students are on task and working hard**, a raffle will be held where winning students can earn prizes ranging from T-Shirts/action figures to free meals at nearby restaurants to Blazer tickets and (occasionally) concert tickets at the Moda Center. **Blazer Ticket Policy:** Tickets are announced a week in advance and are **usually** scheduled on non-school nights. If you win Blazer tickets **you and a plus one (friend, parent, other family member, etc.)** get to go to the game. **If you take the Blazer tickets PLEASE make every effort to go.** The arrangement Mr. García has with the Blazers is that at least 75 percent of the tickets he receives get used over the school year. If tickets don't get used, the deal is off and the school is locked out of their donation system. If you win, you have to wait for **three weeks** until you can win again unless it's a big raffle which takes place after every test. **About the raffle tickets:** Tickets can be earned for a wide range of behaviors including, but not limited to, regular attendance, good note-taking skills, correctly answering questions in class/trivia game activities and **keeping the room clean**. The best way you can earn tickets is by scoring A's on quizzes and tests. **An "A" on a quiz gets you 8 tickets. An "A" on a test gets you 16 tickets (even on a retake)**

**Looking forward to an outstanding school year!** If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 503-916-5140 ext. 84438 or email me at ggarcia1@pps.net