



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MONROE

Preparing for the Future, One Child at a Time

Introduction to Psychology

Course Description:

The curriculum for this unweighted, elective, and introductory course is developed from the [Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies](#). This course explores the scientific study of human behavior, including its biological, psychological, and social/environmental influences. It will examine the role of physiology, the nervous system, and genetics to the study of psychology and psychological disorders as well as explore the importance of the nature vs. nurture controversy on modern psychology. This is a single trimester course focused on learning the fundamental principles of Psychology. This is a course for understanding the human mind and how it functions, and provides an avenue for those interested in multiple career paths (such as Criminal Justice, the medical field, teaching, nursing) and can also provide a background for students interested in advanced material in AP Psychology. Units covered will include: Science and Pseudoscience, History and Perspectives in Psychology, Brain Structure and Function, State of Consciousness, and Research Methods in Behavioral Science.

Mastery Standards:

Evaluate historical perspectives to create arguments with evidence concerning current events. (SS.Hist3.b.h)

Explain the interaction of biology and experience and its influence on behavior. (SS.BH1.a.h)

Analyze biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors that influence a person's cognition, perception, and behavior. (SS.BH1.a.h)

Explore developmental theories (e.g., Piaget, Erikson, Maslow) as they relate to cultural bias. (SS.BH1.b.h)

Explain how and why people view places and regions differently as a function of their ideology, race, ethnicity, language, gender, age, religion, politics, social class, and economic status. (SS.Geog4.a.h)

Frame researchable, complex, and open-ended questions, integrating multiple social studies strands that call for investigation. (SS.Inq1.a.h)

Unit	Description of Unit and Learning Targets
<p>Unit Title: Understanding Psychology as a Science</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What defines the progression of psychology as a science through history? • What are the modern perspectives used in viewing behavior? • What are the markers separating science from pseudoscience? • What are current trends in psychological sciences? • What are the various careers in the field of psychology? • How do you employ the scientific method for determining answers? 	<p>Students will.....</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Psychology as a science. • Explain how current scientific knowledge has shaped psychology as a science today. • Explain psychology's different levels of analysis and perspectives. • Understand multiple subfields of psychology. • Explain how everyday thinking sometimes leads us to incorrect conclusions. • Define critical thinking. • Describe ways to become a better critical thinker. • Design a project using the scientific method (intro to project) • Describe ways scientists use the scientific method to test hypotheses.

<p>Unit Title: Biology of the Brain</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the central and peripheral nervous system integrated and how do they function in the human body? • How is brain biology utilized in the study of psychology? • What are the effects of brain injury on behavior? 	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the biological parts of the brain and their functions. • Locate those parts on a map of the brain. • Show how the biology of the brain contributes to behavior. • Describe how changes in brain chemistry affect behavior. • Explain the current theories in biological psychology. • Describe the nervous system and how behavior is determined by its function.
<p>Unit Title: States of Consciousness</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the states of consciousness? • How are these states altered? • How do various states of consciousness affect behavior? 	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the concepts of dual processing and the two-track mind. • Describe and explain how selective attention affects our ability to attend to information. • Define circadian rhythm and apply its importance to daily human behavior and functioning. • Explain the importance of sleep. • Define and describe common sleep disorders. • Explain how drugs alter consciousness. • Understand tolerance, dependence and addiction.
<p>Unit Title: Nature vs. Nurture</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do genetics and environment play a factor in establishing and changing behavior? • How has evolution shaped human nature? • How have human mating preferences been shaped by evolutionary psychology? • How does the biopsychosocial perspective bring nature and nurture theories together? 	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the role environment plays in shaping behavior. • Explain the role genetics play in shaping behavior. • Explain the difference between a genetic disposition and a genetic certainty. • Describe the role of evolution on human psychology. • Show how evolution contributed to human interpretation of environment. • Understand how mating preferences (and other behaviors) were driven by evolutionary psychology. • Craft an explanation for behavior involving genetics, environment, and personal psychology.
<p>Unit Title: Personality and Trait Analysis</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the ways to describe an individual's personality? • What are the most popular methods for measuring an individual's personality? • What are the strengths and weaknesses of trait theory in personality analysis? • In what ways do our personalities assist us in avoiding stress? 	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how personality affects behavior. • Explain how outside influences affect and change behavior. • Describe how trait theory of behavior describes an individual's personality. • Identify and define the various defense mechanisms that the brain uses to avoid stress.

Unit	Description of Unit and Learning Targets
<p>Unit Title: Research Methods in Psychology</p>	<p>Students will.....</p>

Essential Questions:

- What are the major forms of research methodology in Psychology?
- Which forms of research are best used in which situations, and what do they tell us about behavior?
- What are the modern rules of ethics for behavioral study?
- How are ethics on animal and human trials different? How are they similar?

Learning Targets:

- Learn the major types of psychological research.
- Analyze different aspects of behavior to study and identify the appropriate course of research.
- Identify the major ethical guidelines in behavioral research, and explain how they are applied to a study.
- Apply a research method to a behavior study of their choice, and conduct a study with scientific reporting.