**Psychology Fall 2019**

**Mr. Alex Genheimer**

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**Technology**

This year, every McGuinness student has their own iPad*.* This tool (iPad) can help us in the classroom, or it can become a hindrance. I will expect that you will follow all of McGuinness’s guidelines with these devices, and will *only have them out when I give you explicit instruction to do so.* Otherwise, they will be confiscated. Because you have access to iPads, you will not be allowed to use your phone unless given direct permission from the teacher. If I see your phone, I will ask you to put it away or may confiscate it.

**Why Study Psychology?**

Psychology is a fascinating subject that permeates all other subjects of learning. Without an understanding of psychology, you cannot fully appreciate history, economics, trends in scientific research and many other fields. Psychology is a huge element of how advertisers sell us products, how politicians win elections, why people discriminate based on race or sex, why studying comes so easily for some students and is so difficult for others, and almost any other imaginable situation involving humans. When we understand the underlying methods that control these processes, we can learn to make informed consumer decisions, vote for candidates based on merit, combat our own prejudices and understand how they work, learn to study with proven and effective techniques, and generally see the world more clearly. Psychology has shaped our world in a positive way since its conception, and we will be able to sample the discipline of psychology in this course.

**Course Overview:**

This course will examine several areas of the broad discipline of psychology. You will gain a greater understanding of psychology as a discipline, and will be given the tools necessary to uncover psychological truth about our environment. As a result of this class, you will have a greater understanding of psychology in terms of how your mind (and the minds of others) works; specifically, how it is influenced by (and influences) others and the environment. Specifically: This course will examine the following:

History and Approaches

* Important figures in psychology
* Logic / Critical Thinking

Research Methods

* Propose and conduct an experiment
* Learn and utilize statistical analysis

Biological Bases of Behavior

* Neuroanatomy
* Neural transmission

Sensation and Perception

* Thresholds
* Anatomy
  + Eye
  + Ear
  + Nose
* Illusions

Learning

* Classical Conditioning
* Operant Conditioning
* Social Learning

Personality

* Personality theories from the major perspectives
* Sigmund Freud

Abnormal

* Definitions of Abnormality
* Types of Disorders

**Supplies:**

* Binder (To hold assignments and handouts for class)
* Loose notebook paper
* Writing utensils (pen or pencil)
* iPad (charged)

**Expectations:**

* Respect your fellow students, the teacher, and yourself
* Turn in homework and daily activity assignments by the beginning (or end if indicated) of the class period it is due. If it is not turned in by this time, it will be counted as late\*. Make arrangements with me *beforehand* if you know you will be sick or absent for an acceptable reason.
* **Late work will be counted off 20% for each day late unless otherwise stated.**
* Bring what is necessary to participate in class.
* No cell phones if I am speaking, we are watching a video, or you have not completed an assignment yet. If I see or hear the phone, I will take it. If I see or hear it again, I will give it to Mr. Epps.
* Try your best to participate in class discussions and groupwork.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Cheating or blatant plagiarism is unacceptable in this class. Consequences of cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but will typically result in a score of zero on the test or assignment.

**Evaluation:**

* Semester grades will be comprised of:
* 40% Tests
* 40% Coursework
* 20% Final

**Tutorial**

Tutorial will be offered from 7:30am every day, or immediately after school. If possible, please let me know that you will be attending tutorial ahead of time, so that I will be able to help you as best as possible.

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**Student Form**

(to be completed by the student)

Please read, complete and sign the following form:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print your name) have read the class syllabus for psychology.

I understand the expectations required of me, and agree to follow them. In addition, I agree to avoid any behavior or speech that is not in line with Bishop McGuinness student expectations. If I do violate any of these, I will be subjected to consequences, as listed on the syllabus. Before signing this form, I agree to contact Mr. Genheimer with any questions about the syllabus that may appear unclear.

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Parent/Guardian Information**

The following information is important for the teacher. This allows the teacher to contact the student when/if any contact is necessary. Please sign and complete this form after reading the course syllabus. If anything on the syllabus requires further explanation, please contact me by email (listed on the top of the syllabus) or otherwise before returning this form.

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Mother/Father/Guardian’s name Mother/Father/Guardian’s signature

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Mother/Father/Guardian’s E-Mail address Mother/Father/Guardian’s cell phone #