**Psychology**

**Rebecca Giardina**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description and Objectives**

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. It is a unique science that often necessitates the use of special measurements and research methods. The course has four sections: psychological foundations and research, biological foundations, change in behavior and cognition, and variability of behavior among individual and groups.

**Textbook**

Savvas Psychology

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 1: History and Approaches in Psychology

Unit 2: Research Methods

Unit 3: Biological Foundations of Psychology

Unit 4: Behavior, Learning, and Cognition

Unit 5: Variability of Behavior among Individuals and Groups

Unit 6: Social Psychology

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

At least one project will be assigned each grading period. This will be an extension or enrichment of the concepts discussed. Students will have 1 to 3 weeks to complete each project depending on the complexity of the task. Some tasks and/or projects will be completed in class (specifically the unit culminating tasks – these MUST be completed in class only).

**Course Assessment Plan**

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment. Students who have an excused absence will be allowed (teacher’s discretion) days to turn in the missed assignment. Late work accepted at teacher’s discretion.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Tasks)
* Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)

**Coursework/Classwork**

Students will be given a variety of assignments to support their learning. If a student is absent, they are responsible for making up any missed work. All assignments should be turned in on time. Meeting deadlines shows responsibility and helps students stay on track with learning. Late work can affect your understanding of the material and your ability to show mastery of the standards.

When an assignment requires original work, students may not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete it. These tasks are meant to show what you know and can do. Using AI to complete your work for you is considered academic dishonesty. *Cheating or plagiarism will be addressed according to the Richmond County Code of Conduct.*

*For more information, see: RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices.*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion.***

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (W, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Be engaged during the lessons**
* **Be Safe by creating a safe space for everyone in the room to learn**
 |
| **Accountable** | * **Coming to class on time with the necessary materials**
* **Remaining in the assigned seat**
 |
| **Respectful** | * **Respectful of classmates and using our hands to answer questions**
* **Respectful to the teacher by PUTTING AWAY ALL PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY**
 |

**Course Materials**

\* Notebook

\* Pencils and/or Pens

\* Colored Pencils or Markers

**My contact information:**

Email: GiardRe@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Band App messages:

**Psychology Syllabus Acknowledgement**

**Please sign and return to Mrs. Giardina. The syllabus is posted on the class website and in Canvas.**

Please initial the below statements:

\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we), the parent/guardian of the below student, have accessed online, read, and understand the contents of the syllabus for Psychology.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) understand the expectations of the student in the classroom and outside the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) am aware how to access the Week At a Glance (WAG) on Mrs. Giardina’s website.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) am aware that school-issued laptops are required on Major Assessment (Test) Days to be able to take the Test. If the student forgets their computer, I will receive a **missing in the gradebook** until I bring my issued laptop to school and schedule a time to make up the test.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) am aware of Rule 16 in the Student Code of Conduct about putting away all forms of personal technology in the classroom, including and not limited to cell phones, tablets, smart watches, headphones, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) permit to show school-appropriate movies and/or excerpts of film that align with the Georgia Standards of Education to enhance the educational experience and understanding of a given historical event or topic.

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus grade book. I also understand that work turned in after learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than five school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original work.

Parent Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_