**Psychology Description:**

What do your dreams mean? Do men and women differ in the nature and intensity of their sexual desires? Can you trust the testimony of a young child? Can people repress terrible memories? Why are some people depressed? Can apes learn sign language? Why can't we tickle ourselves? Are humans inherently evil? This course tries to answer these questions, providing a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of thought and behavior. It explores topics such as perception, communication, learning, memory, decision-making, religion, persuasion, love, lust, hunger, art, fiction, and dreams. We will look at how these aspects of the mind develop in children, how they differ across people, how they are wired-up in the brain, and how they break down due to illness and injury.

The purpose of this one semester elective course is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental process of human beings. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Psychology is a very broad field that overlaps with biology, philosophy, mathematics, and sociology.  As the study of individual humans, psychology reveals a great deal about what is at work in our thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and relationships. Regardless of your career goals, psychology can benefit your understanding of human nature and improve your interactions with other people; for example, studying psychology will give you invaluable insights about why we eat (and stop eating), how to look at art, and ways to understand conflicts at work or home.

This course aims to encourage knowledge, skills, and attitudes to apply to our own lives.

Throughout this semester and during this course, students will be expected to participate in class discussions & complete assignments, as well as participate in activities and work in group settings (you will be working with many different groups in your class!). We will be doing MANY projects. You will be speaking up and speaking in class on many occasions.

Goal: My objective is to make this a fun and enjoyable class – this does not mean that EVERY day will be fun for you. I try to run this course on an “every-other-day” environment; trying not to do the same thing two days in a row. I think we will do many interesting activities that you will enjoy, and some that you may not like. The idea is that this course will hopefully broaden your social perspective and your outlook on human nature – to maybe “see” things a little bit differently than you did before, or to simply just force you to question your own behaviors/actions! I would also mention up front that the tests are challenging. This class is not that difficult, but the tests will require you to do more than just pay attention in class!

Class Guidelines and Expectations:

1. Always be prepared and on time for class.

2. Daily work (such as homework assignments) will be accepted two days after they are put in the grade book for up to a 70. After that they will not be accepted.

3. You will be not allowed to hand in late major assignments (such as papers and projects)

4. Absences from school are your responsibility! It is YOUR responsibility to find out what was missed in class!

5. Plagiarized assignments will receive no credit!

6. This is not a hard class, but I do expect you to focus on Psychology when you are in this class (not other schoolwork!!!)

Class Materials Needed:

Textbook; pen/pencil and folder/binder to keep assignments and notes, the folder must have brads