Michael C. Fernandez

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Merriam-Webster defines Psychology as the study of the mind and behavior of a group or individual. The objective of this class is to provide each student a foundation of knowledge contained within the different areas of Psychology. If you have ever wondered why someone behaved, felt, or thought the way they did to an event or the actions of others, this is a course for you!

**General Information:**

You will be provided a large amount of information during the class. I will give lectures throughout the semester on these different topics. We will also do numerous class activities that will enhance your ability to understand the material. Pay attention! Everything we do is fair game for the exams! You are responsible for taking notes on the material. You will notice quickly the class runs similar to a college course. There will not be an abundance of homework, however, you will have reading to do on your own. We will not always discuss everything that you are assigned to read, however, you are responsible for knowing the information. Your assigned reaction papers will be based on the assigned readings and your class notes. We will also watch films that pertain to the different psychological elements we have discussed in class. It is your responsibility to be present for the films. If not, you will have to make arrangements on your own to watch them.

**Expectations:**

1. Do not interrupt the ability to learn!
2. Be respectful to everyone in the room at all times!
3. Turn off cell phones before entering class! This class is a cell phone free zone!

You are expected to be in class and on time. If you have an issue with time management between classes, for valid reasons, please see me as soon as possible so we can solve the problem. Always come to class with a good attitude and be willing to do some work. If you are looking for an “Easy A” this is probably not the class for you. I do have a class website that will provide most of the material necessary to be successful in the class. Please remember to bring your iPad to class and ensure it is charged! You will need it on a regular basis. Save my class website on your home screen for easy access.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based upon the following components:

* Film Analysis 100 Points
* Reaction Papers 100 Points
* Exam 1 100 Points
* Exam 2 100 Points
* Exam 3: Final 100 Points

The total points possible for the semester is 500 Points. The letter grade break down is as follows:

500-450 A

549-400 B

399-350 C

349-300 D

299-below F

**Below are the weekly topics we will be discussing throughout the semester:**

Week 1 August 18-21 Science of Psychology

Week 2 August 24-28 Biological perspectives

Week 3 August 31-Sept 4 Sensation and perception

Week 4 Sept 7-Sept 11 Consciousness & ***Exam #1***

Week 5 Sept 14-Sept 18 Development throughout life

Week 6 Sept 21-Sept 25 Social Psychology: conformity

Week 7 Sept 28-Oct 2 Learning & ***Film Analysis #1: Bend it like Beckham***

Week 8 Oct 5-Oct 9 Culture & Gender

Week 9 Oct 12- Oct 16 Memory

Week 10 Oct 19- Oct 23 Cognition: Thinking & Intelligence

Week 11 Oct 26 – Oct 30 ***Exam #2***

Week 12 Nov 2- Nov 6 ***Film Analysis #2: Rain Man***

Week 13 Nov 9- Nov 13 Motivation and emotion

Week 14 Nov 16-Nov 20 Perspectives on personality

Week 15 Nov 23-Nov 25 ***Film Analysis #3 Dangerous Minds***

Week 16 Nov 30-Dec 4 psychological disorders & therapy

Week 17 Dec 7-Dec 11 ***Film Analysis #4: The Dream Team***

Week 18 Dec 14-Dec 18 *Finals Week/ Final Exam*