

Welcome to AP Psychology!

We are excited that you have decided to join this class and chose to challenge yourself with the fascinating world of psychology. We are certain that you will find this course worthwhile and personally relevant.

This course is the equivalent of a college introductory Psychology course at most colleges or universities in the United States and covers a broad spectrum of the major fields of psychology. Because students work to earn college credit, the class is conducted very much like a college course in terms of discussions and expectations in behavior and quality of work.

Before the semester begins we want you to start observing how Psychology impacts your everyday life. Your summer assignment is comprised of FOUR mini-assignments. Each assignment has a different due date, so please use the checklist to keep yourself organized.

Summer Assignment Checklist

- _____ **Assignment #1 due by June 11th, 2014**: Student/Parent Agreement
- _____ **Assignment #2 due by July 15th, 2014**: Psychology Perspectives in Film
- _____ **Assignment #3 due by August 15th, 2014**: Psychology Perspectives in Podcasts
- _____ **Assignment #4 due September 2nd, 2014**: Introduction Letter

Important Notes:

- Students with last names between **A – Mc** will submit Assignments #1-3 to Ms. Capaldi (**ridley.capaldi@gmail.com**)
- Students with last names between **n Me – Z** will submit Assignments #1-3 to Mrs. Schaffer (**ridley.schaffer@gmail.com**)
- Assignment #4 will be submitted in person on September 2nd to your classroom teacher.
- Assignments #2, 3 and 4 will count as a test grade, therefore you will begin the semester with **three** test grades.

Assignment #1: Student/Parent Agreement

Return to Mrs. Schaffer or Ms. Capaldi by June 11th, 2014

Please read the information about this AP course and discuss with a parent/guardian your readiness to be an AP Psychology student.

AP Psychology is a challenging college-level class. The ability and willingness to read every night is essential for success in this class. You will need to read with full comprehension of the material covered and retain large amounts of information. There is not enough time to cover every term/concept/theory in class, so you will be responsible for learning information independently.

Like a college-level course, AP Psychology is "self-guided" and requires a great deal of self-discipline regarding study habits. Your success is based on the effort you as a student put into the class. Class time will be devoted to lectures, demonstrations, discussion, and various activities to further understanding of the concepts presented in the textbook. Class absences can have a negative impact on grades due to the amount of material covered and discussed in one class period.

We encourage both students and parents to consistently monitor their grades on Power School. It is important to not fall behind early in the course as each unit will build upon the concepts of the previous unit. The AP Exam will require students to answer 100 multiple choice questions and 2 essay questions in a two hour time frame.

We are excited to bring AP Psychology to Ridley High School and are glad that you have decided to take this challenge. Please note that if you choose to drop this class after the July 15th deadline, you will receive a 'withdrawal failing' grade.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent
Signature _____ Date _____

Assignment #2: Psychology Perspectives in Film



Look through the attached list of psychology movies and choose one film to watch. Use IMBD for descriptions of each movie to help you decide. You are to watch one of the films and complete a written analysis of the film based on the requirements below. Keep in mind that it may be necessary to do additional research to complete this writing.

1. Use APA format for writing this paper and be sure to include a title.
 - Use this site to familiarize yourself with the APA format
<http://psychology.about.com/od/apastyle/a/apa-format-essay.htm>
2. Give a brief summary of the movie to provide a context
3. Give a brief summary of the relevant theory or mental disorder being portrayed (the attached list gives suggested topics for each movie)
4. Discuss how the disorder or theory is portrayed in the movie. Was the portrayal accurate or was it distorted by “Hollywood”?
5. Analyze the emotional impact this film can have on a viewer. Did you have an emotional reaction to the film, why or why not?
6. How does your own knowledge and experiences affect how you perceive the film?
7. Assess the film’s impact at the time of release on society’s perspective of the event and people involved.
8. Discuss the psychological importance of this film. Why is this an important film for others to watch?
9. Give your personal review on the film in an attempt to persuade next year’s students to watch or not watch.
10. Discuss what you have learned about human behavior by watching this film.

Requirements: Your paper should be **no less than 3 full pages** in length and **no longer than 5 pages in length**, double spaced. Your font size should be 12, type should be *Times New Roman* and all margins should be set at 1”. Deductions will be made for papers that do not meet these requirements.

Notes: The movie list contains a wide range of movies to accommodate those of different ages. Please choose an appropriate movie for your age. Please check the movies ratings prior to watching. IF YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WATCH AN R-RATED MOVIE, THEN SELECT A DIFFERENT MOVIE. There are many available choices that are appropriate.

Assignment #3: Psychology Perspectives in Podcasts



Load the Podcast App on your iPad from the App Store. Using your recently loaded Podcast App, “search” for the following two podcasts and add them to your iPad:

1. **Psychology in Everyday Life:** The Psych Files, hosted by psychologist, Dr. Michael Britt
2. **Shrink Rap Radio Psychology Interviews:** Exploring brain, body, mind, spirit, intuition, leadership, research and social issues, hosted by psychologist, Dr. David Van Nuys

You are asked to listen to one podcast from either of these two collections. Tap the “feed” button on the main site and scroll down to look for a podcast that might interest you. From here you can download a few episodes you may want to consider. A brief written description of the podcast is also available here if the title itself doesn’t give you enough information on the subject matter. You can also choose to subscribe to the podcast to receive the latest broadcasted podcasts as they are published and become available. The podcast you finally select for this assignment must be more than 15 minutes long.

1. State the name of the Psychology Podcast you used, the title of your podcast episode, the date it was first broadcast and the time index.
2. State a few sentences about the podcast topic or topics covered in this episode.
3. Give a brief summary of the relevant theory, mental disorder, social issue or research referred to in the podcast. Feel free to do a little research to find out some basic information about the topic referred to in your podcast.
4. Are any specific people (authors, psychologists, etc.) included in the podcast? State who they are and what you now know about them. Feel free to do a little research to find out some basic information about any of the individuals included in your podcast.
5. What conclusions about this topic does the host draw?
6. What conclusions can you draw?
7. What have you learned about this topic?
8. How could you apply the information from this podcast to your life?
9. What issues related to this topic would you like to know more about? What questions do you have?
10. What could you state to recommend this podcast to other psychology students?

Requirements: Your answers for this assignment should be **no less than 3 full pages** in length and **no longer than 5 pages in length**, double-spaced. Your font size should be 12, type should be *Times New Roman* and all margins should be set at 1”. Deductions will be made for papers that do not meet these requirements.

Notes: These two podcasts contain more than 232 episodes from which to choose. If one of the podcasts doesn’t give you enough information to sufficiently answer the questions we are asking you to respond to in this assignment, then you need to select another podcast so you can do the assignment justice.

Assignment #4 – Introduction Letter



This assignment is designed for me to get to know you prior to the school year beginning. In this email, you are to use well written, complete sentences, do not abbreviate words, (i.e. language you would use on Twitter, text messages, etc.), and lastly, use spell check.

This is a professional communication similar to what you would use with a college professor or employer.

- **Address the letter** to either Mrs. Schaffer or Ms. Capaldi
- **Subject:** Introduction to [Your Name]

In the body of the email, answer the following...

1. Introduce your self.
 2. Describe your high school experience to this point.
 3. What are your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun?
 4. What extra curricular activities are you involved or planning to be involved in?
 5. Do you have a job? Do you like it? Is this something you would like to continue as a career?
 6. What are your goals/plans after high school?
 7. Why are you taking AP Psychology? What are you looking forward to in this class? What areas of psychology interest you?
 8. Are you enrolled in other AP courses? Have you taken other AP courses? What has motivated you to take the AP challenge?
 9. How will you manage your time throughout this upcoming school year?
 10. What else should I know about you so that I have insight into you as a person before the next school year begins?
- **Closing:** End your email with a formal closing: “Cordially”, “Sincerely”, “With regards”, “Your student” etc, and add your name as you would if you signed a letter.
 - **Print this letter out.** You will turn in the actual letter to your teacher on September 2nd, 2014.

MOVIE SUGGESTIONS

#	MOVIE	SUGGESTED TOPIC
1	13	Group Behavior/Depression
2	A Clockwork Orange	Intelligence/Schizophrenia
3	American History X	Stereotypes, Prejudice
4	Benny & Joon	Schizophrenia
5	Blow	Drug Addiction/Usage
6	Center Stage	Eating Disorders/Motivation
7	Citizen Kane	Psychological Development
8	Coming Home	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
9	Conspiracy Theory	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
10	Copycat	Agoraphobia, Anxiety Disorder
11	Courage Under Fire	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
12	Dad	Memory
13	Don't Say a Word	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
14	Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas	Drug Addiction/Usage
15	Fight Club	Multiple Personality Disorder
16	Fisher King	Mental Illness
17	Girl Interrupted	Depression/Personality Disorders/Psychosis
18	Good Will Hunting	Therapy
19	I Am Sam	Mental Retardation
20	Identity	Multiple Personality Disorder
21	Man Without a Face	Prejudice
22	Manchurian Candidate	Brain Washing
23	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Schizophrenia/Therapy/Mental Institutions
24	Ordinary People	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
25	Patch Adams	Intelligence
26	Primal Fear	Multiple Personality Disorder
27	Prozac Nation	Depression/Drug Therapy/Institutions
28	Random Harvest	Amnesia
29	Silence of the Lambs	Psychological Disorders
30	Summer of Sam	Schizophrenia
31	Sybil	Multiple Personality Disorder
32	The Aviator	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
33	The Caine Mutiny	Anxiety Disorders
34	The Deer Hunter	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
35	What Dreams May Come	Depression
36	What's Eating Gilbert Grape?	Identity Crisis/Mental Retardation
37	When a Man Loves a Woman	Alcoholism