**Class Expectations: IB Psych I**

**Instructor: Brian Burak**

**Email:** **brian.burak@uticak12.org**

**Office Hours: 2A & 3B**

**Websites: Schoology Class Page; http://burakpsych.weebly.com**

**Course**: Welcome to Psychology! This class is designed for you to learn Psychology and consequently, successfully complete the IB exam. You probably signed up for this class because there is something about human behavior that interests or fascinates you. It could be why we act the way we do, what makes us think the thoughts we think, or simply what the heck that dream last night meant. Some of you may have taken this as “the easy alternative to a real science class”. Many of you took it because you heard Psych was fun and easy and Burak is a really cool guy. Whatever the reason, you have chosen to enter into the exciting challenge of exploring the mind. In this course, we will study the practical applications of psychological theories through scientific experimentation and theoretical investigation. By the end of this course, you will have a better understanding of human behavior and mental processes, which in turn will better help you understand the way our world works and operate more successfully in it. The content of this course is highly applicable to your life and you will enjoy studying it. That said it’s not going to be easy.

**My Expectations**: Students should expect to work hard in this class. Don’t be fooled by my mild-mannered demeanor (or what I was like as your IS teacher). I will demand a lot from you. Many of you won’t believe me until you get your first grades. That’s fine. You should come to class prepared and ready to engage with material ranging from case study analysis, to labs, projects, readings, lectures, discussions etc. You will need to stay organized as we will be utilizing a lot of articles, journals, case studies, and handouts in class. Make a name & studies journal, and use it, often. You are expected to dominate the IB exam. Finally, I expect you to enjoy this class. It’s an awesome course.

**Expectations for Behavior & Discipline:** Be respectful, be reasonable, be responsible. That should cover basically everything behaviorally.

**Aims:** All subjects in **group 3, individuals and societies (as tailored to Psych specifically)** are to:

1. encourage the systematic and critical study of: human experience and behaviour; physical, economic and social environments and development of social and cultural institutions

2. develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and society

3. enable the student to collect, describe and analyse data used in studies of society, to test hypotheses, and to interpret complex data and source material

4. promote the appreciation of the way in which learning is relevant to both the culture in which the student lives, and the culture of other societies

5. develop an awareness in the student that human attitudes and beliefs are widely diverse and that the study of society requires an appreciation of such diversity

6. enable the student to recognize that the content and methodologies of the subjects in group 3 are contestable and that their study requires the toleration of uncertainty.

In addition, the aims of the **psychology** course at SL and at HL are to:

**1. develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental**

**processes and behaviour**

**2. apply an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental**

**processes and behaviour to at least one applied area of study**

**3. understand diverse methods of inquiry**

**4. understand the importance of ethical practice in psychological research in general and observe**

**ethical practice in their own inquiries**

**5. ensure that ethical practices are upheld in all psychological inquiry and discussion**

**6. develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied to address real-world problems**

**and promote positive change.**

**Topics**: Below is a tentative schedule of topics that will be covered in this course.

**Year 1:**

* Intro to Psych - What is IB Psych? Core Levels of Analysis, Command terms etc.
* Culture & Schema
* Learning & Memory (Cognitive)
* Research Methods
* Evolution & Human Development pt. 1
* Gender (Cognitive)
* Language (Cognitive)
* Social Psychology
* Biopsychology

**Year 2:**

* IA’s
* Health Psychology
* Human Relationships
* Qualitative Research
* Human Development pt. 2
* Consciousness
* Sensation & Perception (Cognitive)
* Emotion (Cognitive)
* Review for IB Exam

**There will be several threads that continually pop up through this course – culture, stress, language, development, evolution, ethics, gender, methods and application – pay extra attention to these**

**Homework**: Homework will primarily consist of readings from various texts as well as journal articles and case studies. Students are encouraged to take notes in whatever method suits them. These will **NOT** be assessed. Assignments are expected to be completed on time unless prior arrangements are made with Mr. Burak. You will NOT be assigned a textbook. Classroom copies are available for your use.

**Assessments**: We will have occasional assessments and recall exercises (q\*\*z, t\*\*t, and e\*\*m are four letter words in my class and thus are inappropriate due to their nature as unnecessary stressors). They will consist of content identifications & study analysis. I don’t give multiple choice. Do not stress out about these. I want you focused on learning, not on grades (and no, they are not the same thing). Essays will be almost exclusively used as practice and an opportunity to fail! More on this later.

**Grading & Attendance**: This course will be graded according to a standards based system. More on this later too. Attendance is taken daily at the start of class. If you leave and do not return or are gone for extended periods of time, that will be noted addressed.

**IA**: The IB Internal Assessment will be introduced in June 2017 and will be due on November 16 or 17, 2017 depending on which day we have class. It is a 1,000-1,500 word experimental study. This will make up either 20% (HL) or 25% (SL) of your grade depending on your level. More details to follow.

**IB External Assessment:** The IB Exam will take place over two days in May 2022. Do not overly stress about this. You will be in excellent shape to excel on this recall exercise when the time comes.

**Class Rule:** No pencils allowed for any submitted work. No, seriously.

**Navigating Schoology**

* A little unclear how this will work for UAIS at the moment. Most likely one page per subject area, not section. This is the launchpad for all classwork. Information will be posted in a folder for each day’s lessons/documents, links etc. as necessary.

**How to Get Help from Burak**

* Email is the best way to get help from me during asynchronous learning (i.e. – working on an assignment on your own), though you may still be able to ask me a question via video or char feature as well. I have 3 kids learning from home as well, so I will not be very responsive after school hours because I need to help them. Not to mention this is not a 24-hour job and I have to have a life. My email is brian.burak@uticak12.org

**District’s Student Online Expectations:**

* Mute yourself unless instructed to do otherwise
* Listen for teacher expectations
* Be on time
* Turn on camera
* Come prepared
* Be respectful
* Find a quiet place to work
* Raise your hand to talk and wait your turn (depending on circumstances this may not be necessary)
* Use chat to ask questions
* Be presentable
* Inform me in advance if you are running late or not attending class
* Be patient – we may need to wait for all students to complete an activity before moving on. Use extra time to stretch or take a break
* Do not share meeting links with others
* Use your real name – do not use a nickname or aliases
* Turn off your video when attending to other matters

I know you are going to gain a lot from taking this class. Let’s make it a great 2 years!

UAIS Mission Statement

The mission of UAIS is to engage our students and to cultivate their abilities through individualized attention and the support of our community of educators, learners, and parents.

This collaborative environment and the rigorous, comprehensive, and internationally-minded curriculum challenge the learner to grow personally and academically.

As our students develop into enlightened, globally-aware citizens, the skills and understanding that they acquire at UAIS will help them lead today and improve tomorrow.



Please note: No video, audio, photo, or written comments can be posted, tweeted, sent, or linked to any electronic, print, or audio media without the expressed written consent of Brian Burak prior to the posting, tweeting, messaging, or linking of said content.