**Course Description:** The purpose of AP® Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. A variety of activities, readings, discussions, and projects will be provided to expose students to the different scientific and empirical approaches utilized in the study of psychology. ***Comment: The AP Exam is the culminating activity for this course.***

**Classroom Policies:**

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class every day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check the class calendar, confer with a fellow classmate, or see Mr. Rude to get caught up.
2. Tardiness: You must be in the room when class starts, or you will be counted tardy. After three tardies, you will be required to serve a detention.
3. Materials: Students are expected to bring a writing utensil, paper, a binder, and their textbook to class every day. (***Note:*** *You are strongly encouraged to bring personal laptops to class to use as an academic tool.)*
4. Late-work: Assignments that are turned in on time will be graded and receive full credit. Assignments turned in after due date will be worth 50% of their original value.
5. Evaluation*:* Student grades will be assigned according to the scale adopted by the International School of Sosúa with assignments, projects, quizzes, papers, and summative exams all factoring in to the calculation of a student’s final course grade.

**Primary Text:** Myers, David G. *Psychology,* 10th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers

**Course Reading:** Students are expected to read and interpret college-level texts and various other published materials. Students will read their textbook cover to cover by the time they take the AP Exam in May as well as many other academic articles and texts. Students will be exposed to a variety of different reading strategies to ensure full comprehension on these texts. Typically, students are expected to read a portion of their textbook each night for homework over which they are expected to take notes.

**Course Overview:** Class time will likely be structured as follows:The period will start with a short, student-driven question-and-answer session discussing the assigned reading (warm-up or reading quiz). The remainder of the class period is usually filled by a mix of teacher-directed instruction, discussion, and various map or investigative activities.Exams conclude each three- to four-week unit. These exams are designed to resemble as closely as possible the two sections on the Advanced Placement test: the multiple-choice section and the free-response essays. Thus, unit exams usually comprise a multiple-choice test and a number of essays designed to look like the free-response essays on the Advanced Placement test. In-class activities as well as homework assignments are designed to prepare students to meet the *AP Psychology General Learning Outcomes*:

* Read sophisticated texts and academic writings.
* Write well-constructed essays and research reports.
* Think critically by synthesizing a variety of perspectives and information from various sources.
* Discuss controversial issues with maturity and openness.
* Be prepared to do acceptable work on the AP Psychology Exam.
* Describe the major core concepts and theories of psychology, and define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
* Develop basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.

**\*Academic Honor Code:** As a university preparatory school, ISS students must learn proper research methods and accepted practices. The integrity of the both the student and our school requires complete academic honesty on all assignments, papers, and presentations. Cheating, plagiarism, and test dishonesty are serious violations of school rules and community values. Such dishonest behavior will not be tolerated. Parents will be notified and a copy of communication will be kept on file in the student’s academic record.

**Units of Study:**

1. Intro to Psychology & Research Methods – Prologue & Chapter 1
2. Biological Bases of Behavior & States of Consciousness – Chapters 2 & 3
3. Evolutionary & Developmental Psychology – Chapters 4 & 5
4. Sensation and Perception & Learning – Chapters 6 & 7
5. Memory & Cognition – Chapters 8 & 9
6. Testing and Individual Differences & Motivation – Chapters 10 & 11
7. Emotion & Personality – Chapters 12 & 13
8. Social Psychology & Abnormal Psychology – Chapters 14 & 15
9. Treatment of Psychological Disorders – Chapter 16

**\*Classroom Code of Conduct based on Cultivating the ISS Work Habits:**

* RESPECT your classmates, your teacher, and yourself*.* We must treat each other with kindness to establish a classroom environment in which everyone is able to learn.
* Drinks with a sealable lid are allowed and small snacks are ok. I will ask you to put all other food or drink away that I feel is disruptive to our class. Please respect our classroom by helping to keep it clean.
* You will receive clear instructions when cell phones and other electronic devices can be used for academic purposes; these devices should be put away at all other times. Please communicate with me at the beginning of class if there is an emergency situation that warrants the use of your cell phone.

***\*Infractions will be dealt with according to the International School of Sosúa discipline matrix.***

**\*\*Syllabus Signature:** My goal is for all students to find this course challenging but not to the point where it becomes overwhelming. If you feel like you are struggling, please find a time to see me so that we can make a plan to help you succeed. The big idea here is to communicate with me early and often about what you need to be successful in this class!

***\*\*Please sign, date, and detach along on the dotted line below. Keep the above portion with your class materials for your personal reference throughout the year.***

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*The instructor reserves the right to modify policies/consequences when the situation requires.*

**I have read and agree to abide by the policies and rules set forth in this class syllabus:**

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Student Signature & Name (Print) Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date