



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the definition, history, and practice of Psychology through the lens of a Christian worldview, in order for the student to be able to understand the philosophical assumptions the subject of Psychology is built upon, and to incorporate Psychology into a greater understanding of the human being through Scripture.

To accomplish this goal, the course will walk students through a philosophical approach to psychology, will explore the nature of the soul and mind, and will set out to provide a basic understanding of the principles of learning and the brain's operations. As the course progresses, there will be opportunities for students to get an overview of various other fields within psychology, to be determined by the interest of the class (social, developmental, experimental, clinical, etc.).

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this elective course is to introduce students to a foundational understanding of Psychology, and the framework of its study, through the lens of a Biblical worldview.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To understand what Psychology is, and its context within the greater scopes of Scripture, Philosophy, and Science
- To explore various concepts within the subject of Psychology, including the basics of neuroscience
- To understand philosophical views that contribute to various psychological theories and concepts
- To be familiar the history of Psychology, and its development as a subject of study
- To apply the truth of the Bible to the study and practical application of Psychology

REQUIRED READING

- *Psychology: A Christian Perspective* by Tim Rice
- Selections from *Summa Theologica* (spiral)
- Selections from *Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard (spiral)
- Various other selections and readings assigned in class

SUPPLIES

Note to Parents & Students: Also consult Grade Level Supply List.

- Notebook/Notebook Paper
- Writing Utensils
- Bible (to be brought to class daily – do not plan to use Bible apps on your phone!)

GRADING

Contribution: 30%

Homework Assignments: 40%

Tests/Papers/Presentations: 30%

Contribution Grades: Contribution Grades primarily assess four areas: a student's preparation for class, attitude towards learning, contribution towards learning during class-time, and his level of engagement during the class conversation. A student's respectfulness towards God, his tutor, and peers is a prerequisite for a good Contribution Grade.

Daily Contribution grades will be given for every hour of class. Typically, students are expected to earn 10 points per hour, but the tutor may adjust these values to better reflect the nature of the class time. Daily Contribution grades are not revisable.

REVISIONS

Revisions must be turned in within two weeks of getting the assignment back.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

There will be a 10% late penalty for each assignment for the first week it is late. An additional 10% will be lost each week. Work cannot be turned in after the 3 week mark.

TARDY POLICY

Being on time consists of being in your seat ready to begin class at :15 after the hour, not walking through the door at :15 or :16. Tardies will result in an automatic 2 points deducted from contribution that cannot be regained. If it becomes a habit or if the situation warrants, higher point deductions will result.

COMMUNICATION

The best way to communicate with me will be during office hours, or via text or email. Please feel free to contact me at during the day if you would like to set up a time to meet. For normal situations, I will not likely respond to communications outside of school hours, so if the matter is time sensitive please reach out before the school day ends.

TURNITIN POLICY

Turnitin is an internet-based service and tool that promotes academic integrity and original thought from students. Turnitin screens for similarity (plagiarism) and detects unauthorized A.I. usage in writing.

To better ensure academic integrity and original thought, tutors may ask students to either submit their classwork through Turnitin directly or to email them a digital copy of their classwork, for the tutor to upload through Turnitin screenings.

Tutors may use the feedback Turnitin provides to help them make a more informed determination about the integrity and originality of the student's work.

FIRST DAY ASSIGNMENT

- 1.) Familiarize yourself with the Course Description.
- 2.) Come to class ready to discuss the reading, and the following questions: What is psychology? What is the mind? How can we - and why would we want to - study the mind?
- 3.) Prepare a brief list of subjects you would like to cover as the semester progresses, so we can spend more time on the subjects within psychology that interest you as a class (i.e., mental health, counseling, experimental psychology, dreams, substance use/addiction, etc.).

MCA Schoolwide Policies

MCA ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absence: Parents must inform the school if their student will be absent for any reason. Call the Front Office or email upperschoolnurse@mcaknights.org prior to the absence or on the morning of the absence. If a student is absent without prior notification by a parent, the school will call the parent to determine the validity of the absence. Call the office, 432-694-0995, or email upperschoolnurse@mcaknights.org.

In the event an Upper School student is absent for more than one-fourth (1/4) of the class sessions during a semester, the student's parents must meet with the tutor and Head Administrator to determine whether the student will receive credit for the class. Additional and/or make-up work may be required.

Tardy Policy: Tardies will be marked at the discretion of the individual tutors. Students or parents should contact the individual tutors to report reasons for tardies as soon as possible.

Missed Assignment Due Date Guidelines: In the event of an absence, a due date extension will be given. The extension will not exceed the number of school days missed during the absence. Due dates will be established by the class tutor. Students must complete all work assigned during their absence. However, the tutors may, at their discretion, excuse the students from any portion of the assignments missed. Students will receive full credit for submitting assigned work. Note: It is the **student's responsibility** to find out what work was assigned. In the case of extended illness, it is recommended that the student or parents contact the tutors directly to find out what assignments were or will be missed.

MCA HONESTY POLICY

All students are assumed to be exhibiting the godly fruit of self-control. We anticipate working with students who are characterized by joy, honesty, and diligence. For this reason, upon enrollment, we require that each student affirm that he or she will maintain the highest standards of honesty and behavior in all work done for Midland Classical Academy. All students will be asked to sign the following.

Pledge of Academic Honesty

I have read and understand the Midland Classical Academy Code of Conduct. I pledge my honor, with God as my witness, to commit myself to the practice and preservation of these standards of academic honesty as long as I am a student of the academy.

As such, the following actions are considered serious violations of our Honesty Policy.

1. Directly copying someone else's work visually, orally, electronically, or otherwise.
2. Use of disallowed devices on assignments such as notes, smartphones, books, etc.
3. Getting test questions or essential information from another student who has already completed an assignment that will later be taken, such as a test or quiz.
4. Any other activity that the tutor has explicitly described as cheating.

MCA MASTERY WITH HONORS (MH)

Midland Classical Academy offers honors credit, referred to as "Mastery with Honor", but we offer no "honors" classes.

Mastery with Honor credit for a class is given to those students who

- receive a minimum grade of 92.5 at the end of each semester
- receive a minimum participation grade of 85 at the end of each semester
- demonstrate character befitting an honor student (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- complete a tutor-approved, 20+ hour project that advances the student's knowledge or skills in the subject while serving either the school or the community in some capacity.

As a student fulfills these requirements in a class at MCA, they receive a Mastery with Honor designated by an "MH" for the class. Mastery with Honor applications and a nominal fee are due at the end of October. The projects themselves are due at the end of March with two scheduled checkpoints in between the application and final deadline.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I.) POLICY

Artificial Intelligence programs are tools that can be used beneficially or harmfully. To the extent that MCA uses these A.I. tools, we desire to use them and instruct our students to use them beneficially. It requires the classical virtue of "Wisdom" to discern the difference between what is beneficial and what is harmful.

Among MCA's core values is "Engaging Minds". Everything we do, including our use of A.I. needs to be in harmony with this value and to cultivate within students the skill of being able to "think for themselves".

MCA offers the following principles for tutors & students to follow as they navigate A.I. in their academic domains. MCA tutors will create and clearly communicate their own instructions for A.I. usage in their classrooms and for their assignments. Students should practice integrity, honesty, and humility in their use of A.I. as in all their work.

Principle 1: *Why to use A.I.* - A.I. should only be used by a student to equip them to better understand the material and to learn in a way that facilitates their critical thinking skills.

Principle 2: *When to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate which assignments a student may or may not use A.I. tools to assist in their learning.

Principle 3: *How to use A.I.* - Tutors will explicitly and clearly communicate the method in which it is acceptable and not acceptable for the student to use A.I. tools.