

Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus			
BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1			
Program Name	WYCA	Content Area	Social Studies
Course ID	CASS78729	Grade Level	9, 10, 11, 12
Course Name	Psychology A	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04254GO.5012	Curriculum Type	Connections Academy
COURSE DESCRIPTION			
<p>This is the first of two courses that comprise Psychology. This course begins with a historical review of how man has sought to explain human behavior from ancient times to today. The student will learn about the research methods that are applied to the field and how the scientific method of inquiry moved psychology from quaint parlor tricks like hypnosis and mesmerism to serious inquiry that utilizes hard SC to prove theories. The student will also learn about the amazing brain and will explore the workings of the normal brain. The student will then build upon this biological foundation to learn how the information that we take in through our senses is perceived and interpreted by the brain to form the mental images of our daily experiences in the world. The course also provides a survey of a human's life span from birth to death. The student will learn about all of the major physical and psychological changes that mark the development of a human's existence and a variety of theories that outline these processes.</p>			
WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS			
STANDARD#	BENCHMARK		
SS12.2.1	Analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, and cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs and common good) and contribute to identity (e.g., group, national, and global), situations, and events.		
SS12.2.2	Analyze human experience and cultural expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, spirituality, values, and behavior) and illustrate integrated views of a specific culture.		
SS12.4.1	Describe patterns of change (cause and effect) and evaluate how past events impacted future events and the modern world.		
SS12.4.2	Analyze the development and impact of tools and technology and how it shaped history and influenced the modern world.		
SS12.4.3	Given a significant current event, critique the actions of the people or groups involved; hypothesize how this event would have played out in another country.		
SS12.4.4	Describe the historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious,		
SS12.4.5	Using primary and secondary sources, apply historical research methods to interpret and evaluate important historical events from multiple perspectives.		
SS12.6.1	Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.		
SS12.6.2	Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text supports the author's claims.		
SS12.6.3	Use digital tools to research, design, and present social studies concepts (e.g., understand how individual responsibility applies in usage of digital media). https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students		
SS12.6.4	Evaluate and integrate accurate, sufficient, and relevant information from primary and secondary sources to support writing		
SCOPE AND SEQUENCE			
UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES	
Unit 1: Introducing Psychology In this introductory unit, you will learn about the importance of psychology as a field of inquiry and how for thousands of years man has sought to understand the inner workings of the human mind. You will explore psychology's early roots in philosophy, religion, and mythology; marvel in the strange early "pseudo sciences;" and begin to understand how the rise of science set the stage for psychology as we know it today.	SS12.2.1, SS12.2.2, SS12.3.2, SS12.3.4, SS12.4.1, SS12.4.5, SS12.5.1, SS12.5.2, SS12.5.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Define psychology •Provide a rationale for the study of psychology •Compare and contrast the concepts of basic science and applied science and apply to psychology today •Explain why the scientific basis of psychology is considered a major advance from early psychology thinking 	
Unit 2: Research Methods Statistics In this unit, we will deepen your understanding of these methods so that you will be able to evaluate the research-based information that is presented to you in your daily life. It is important to think critically about data because you are bombarded with research findings nearly everyday. The government, advertisers, scientists and others use research data to draw conclusions about everything from the state of the economy and the safety of products to how to improve your health. Learning how to evaluate these reports from a research perspective will help you use this information wisely and to know which reports you should disregard because of flaws and/or limitations with the study.	SS12.4.5, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.3, SS12.6.4,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gain an overview of psychological research and its methods •Consider what drives psychology research •Describe the five steps in the process of scientific research 	

Unit 3: Basics of the Nervous System In this unit, you will explore the depths of the nervous system and its components. You will begin by understanding the form and functions of the most basic unit of the nervous system, the neuron. You will discover how electrochemical impulses stimulate neurons and nervous system pathways that affect both physical activities and thoughts. You will dissect the human brain in all its beauty and explore the amazing findings that have occurred as a result in technological advances in modern medicine and neuroscience. You will also examine the effects of other factors on behavior, both hormonal and genetic.	SS12.6.4 , SS12.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the structure of a neuron and describe the functions of each major part Name the two divisions of the peripheral nervous system and describe their functions
Unit 4: Altered States To understand altered states of consciousness, you will build on what you have learned about the normal functioning of the brain and the nervous system and will explore what occurs in the brain during unconscious states. In this exploration, you will attempt to understand the mysteries of the most common unconscious states: sleep and dreams. You will discover that dreams are a language of imagery and that this imagery ranges from the normal to the surreal and can include frightening nightmares. You will come to realize that although this is an area of psychology research that has intrigued scientists and has been the subject of considerable research, no one is actually certain about the function of dreams and sleep.	SS12.6.4 , SS12.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the theories related to the functions of sleep List and briefly describe the different stages of sleep Explain the effect of drugs on the brain.
Unit 5: Sensation and Perception In this unit, you will look at behavior (how does an outfielder catch a fly ball?) and neurophysiological evidence (what parts of the brain are most active when we view a spot of red light?). You will explore the anatomical structure of the various sensory systems (how is light transformed into a neural signal within the eye?); the functional architecture of the perceptual parts of the human brain; psychophysics (the quantitative measurement of perceptual experience); form, depth, and motion perception; color vision; visual attention; perceptual memory; auditory perception, and the sense of touch. You will learn about conscious awareness.	SS12.6.4 , SS12.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define sense and sensation Explain the difference between sensation and perception List the major structures and function of the eye and compare the two major theories of color vision
Unit 6: Development Theories In this unit, you will be introduced to the field of developmental psychology, which is the study of behavior across the life span. You will survey the major theorists of this field and discern the key themes of various theoretical perspectives on human development related to cognitive, social, and emotional development, from birth through adolescence. You will learn that psychologists face two critical problems in understanding human development: 1) determining how environmental variables (such as parental attitudes) and biological characteristics (such as health) interact and influence behavior, and 2) understanding how behavioral changes influence one another. Finally, you will look at current research trends that stress the interaction of environmental events and biological traits that influence behavior and development, and understand how and why this research provides methods for helping children with risk factors to develop more normally.	SS12.6.4 , SS12.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the three domains of developmental psychology List three reasons for studying child development
Unit 7: Final Review and Exam Review all the concepts presented in the last six units.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students demonstrate their knowledge of the concepts covered in this course