

## ***Before Taking this Class, I wish I had known... Advice from Past Students!!***

- ❑ The workload in the class is **BIG!** Be sure you have the time to read, take notes and study EVERY NIGHT!
- ❑ Know your time constraints. This class will require a lot of work outside of school in terms of reading and studying. If you don't have time to commit to it... get out now and take it when you do!
- ❑ ALWAYS do the reading & study – overconfidence kills you a lot.
- ❑ Read for meaning, don't just look up answers or key terms. The author of the book does a good job giving real life examples of key concepts to help with your understanding.
- ❑ Use the Study Outlines posted in Google Classroom to help you know what to take notes on and then add to them the next day when Portenga goes over the info in class.
- ❑ Take good notes when you read! Write down examples in your notes!
- ❑ DON'T MISS CLASS! Have good attendance – you will do better on the tests.
- ❑ Pay attention in class, Listen to Portenga, because he goes over test questions and key concepts you need to understand for the test.
- ❑ Participate in class – ask questions!
- ❑ Try the online practice tests and see if they help, a couple of them have actual test questions. They are a good way to get used to the test and combat anxiety.
- ❑ Your grade largely depends on how you score on tests and quizzes, so STUDY...then STUDY MORE!
- ❑ Space out your studying so you aren't cramming. Studying for 10-20 minutes a night is better than 3 hours the night before.
- ❑ Stay organized, and use the class website if you forget the pages to read or other assignments.
- ❑ Know how all of the people (scientists/psychologists) and their studies relate to all of the concepts.
- ❑ Use the online flashcards and PowerPoints, videos & reviews to help you study! They can all be found on the class website!
- ❑ Tests are specific, vocabulary words aren't enough...
  - Read for understanding and ask if you don't understand a concept!
  - Know examples for each term – not just the definition. Questions on the test usually use examples to measure your understanding of key concepts.
- ❑ Budget your time during the tests because that's how it will be on the AP exam.
- ❑ Go see Portenga if you need help with something. He is always happy to help you!