

**DEPARTMENT:** ENGLISH

**NAME OF COURSE:** PSYCHOLOGY IN LITERATURE

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

Psychology in Literature is a one-semester, elective course for those tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students who have a strong interest in both Psychology and Literature. It was created to meet student interest in the ways in which psychology enhances the experience of literature. The course emphasizes reading, writing and skills in analysis. Various genres are studied including novels, works of non-fiction, drama, short stories and film.

**MAJOR TOPICS COVERED**

- ***Language***  
Students will develop a working knowledge of the nature of psychology. Their awareness of the biological, cultural and social foundations of behavior will foster growth in the use of exact language in analyzing and writing about literature.
- ***Literature***  
Students will examine and evaluate literature and literary themes through a lens facilitated by their understanding of human development, human personality and the relationship of the unconscious to symbolism.
- ***Composition***  
Students will write essays that coincide with the literature studied. The formal literary essay will be the main component of the course, although students will also compose short stories, psychological analysis of the “patients” read & closing statements.

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**TEXTBOOKS**

- Psychology, Benjamin, Hopkins and Nation
- The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense, Freud
- The Forgotten Language, Fromm
- The Egg and Other Stories, Anderson
- Wiensbury, Ohio, Anderson
- Kissing Doorknobs, Hesser
- Girl Interrupted, Kaysen
- bash, latterday plays, Labute
- Equus, Shaffer

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Major and minor papers appropriate to units of study
- Oral presentations
- Independent projects
- Active participation

**GRADING PROCEDURES**

Grades depend upon major papers, projects, class participation and homework.