

Welcome to AP Psychology!

Dear student,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to AP Psychology! We are going to have a lot of fun together this year.

As you may already know, Advanced Placement (AP) courses allow you to complete high school requirements and freshmen-level college credits at the same time. However, to receive credit when you go off to college, you will have to pass the AP exam at the end of the school year.

In this course, we will “explore the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice” (College Board).

I look forward to seeing you in August. In the meantime, please complete the summer assignment described below.

Enjoy your summer!

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Summer Assignment

For this assignment, you will read the semi-autobiographical novel *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* by Joanne Greenberg. The novel explores the struggles of a teen girl who suffers from severe mental illness. While the narrator is diagnosed with schizophrenia in the novel, contemporary experts suggest she may have actually suffered from somatization disorder. (This idea of *differential diagnoses* is something we will explore in greater detail in the course.) Reading this book in high school helped me fall in love with psychology and I hope it will do the same for you!

As you read the story, you will be responsible for responding to discussion posts on Schoology that will ask you to synthesize information in the novel with excerpts from our class textbook, *Psychology: Themes & Variations* by Wayne Weiten, Ph.D. You will need to pick up the textbook from the Textbook Room at some point before school ends next month. Your posts will be due a week at a time starting the second week of vacation.

To engage in the summer assignment, you must register for an account at www.schoology.com. Our course code is:

KV2X3-7H3PJ

To enroll in the course, go to:

1. <https://app.schoology.com/register.php> and click **Student**.
2. Then, enter the access code above.
3. Fill out the form with your information. (Please use proper capitalization!)
4. Click **Register** to complete the form.
5. Please add a photograph to your profile!
 - If you have trouble with any of these steps, please contact me.

