

AP Psychology

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AP Program Expectations

This is an advanced level course designed to introduce you into the world of Psychology. You will be exposed to facts, theories, principles, research, methodology, ethics and ideas related to the field of psychology. Be prepared for some theories or ideas may conflict with your personal views or beliefs.

Colleges know that the AP grades of incoming students represent a level of achievement equivalent to that of students who take the same course in the colleges' own classrooms. Each college or university sets its own AP credit and placement policies, but most will grant full credit. More information can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

Upon completion of the course, you will be encouraged to take the AP Exam in May. More information will be given to you regarding the testing process, preparation, and costs.

Having stated the above formal comments regarding AP classes, I have a few things to say. People are complicated beings, possess a variety of physical growth and developmental differences, capable of challenging themselves and each other, and generally all around entertaining. While it is important that our classroom be an environment of rigor, it is equally important for us to be creative. In plain terms, I expect you to work hard and play hard. I expect you to:

- Always do your best.
- Always challenge yourself.
- Always wonder and ask questions.
- Always act professionally regarding classroom expectations/assignments.
- Always apply your new knowledge.
- Always have fun!

Text

Psychology: Passer, Michael W. & Smith, Ronald E., Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior. McGraw Hill Publishing Co., 2009

Course Objectives

1. Students will learn about the history, research processes, and the development of understanding psychological issues.
2. Students will learn about human developmental theories, the major theories of psychological development, and neurological development.

3. Students will gain an appreciation of psychological processes, thinking, components, and analysis.
4. Students will complete a psychological research project.

Study Expectations

Each unit carries with it a set of expectations:

1. Reading Expectations:

You are responsible for reading the chapters BEFORE we begin the unit.

2. Vocabulary and Study Guide Expectations:

* Vocabulary lists are printed at the end of each chapter in the book. You will be directed as to which words and when they are due. To complete: you should **hand write** the term, underline it, then define.

* Guides with study questions (by chapters) are available online at my link through MTHS's website. You should print out the questions, find the answer in the text, **hand write** the answer. You will be directed as to which questions to answer and when they are due.

*Vocabulary and Study questions will be worth 10 points and will NOT be accepted late, typed, photocopied, emailed or incomplete.

* I suggest you design an organizational system for maintaining your study questions and vocabulary.

3. Unit Tests:

Each unit will conclude with a test. Test questions will be taken directly from the AP Instructor's Manual and represent actual AP Final Test Questions.

4. In-class Activities

In-class activities will be worth 5 points each, and cannot be made up regardless of reason for absence.

5. Projects

We will be engaging in projects created to enhance your learning. Individual grading and information will be provided for each project.

Please Note: Many assignments can be found on my webpage and you will be required to replace your own if you are in need of a second copy.

Grading

Standard grading percentages apply: 100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, and 69-60 D.

Late or absentee work:

1. In-class activities may not be made up regardless of reason for absence.
2. Homework will not be accepted late.
3. Late assignments/projects may be subject to grade reduction.
4. Tests missed due to excused absence must be taken within 1 week of the scheduled test date.

AP Testing:

Couple of notes regarding the AP Psychology test in the spring:

1. Taking the test is highly encouraged, but not required.
2. Test will be scheduled the first few days of May.
3. Information regarding cost, location and specific date/time of test will be offered in early spring.
4. I encourage you to purchase and use a testing resource: 5 Steps to A 5, AP Psychology, by Laura Lincoln Maitland, is my book of choice.
5. A 5% increase in the second semester grade will be added if you take the test (half of a letter grade).

Course Calendar, 2011-12:

At the time of this calendar's creation certain calendar events were not finalized. Specific dates will be set at the beginning of each grading period.

Week	Chapter #, Major Concepts	Important Info/Events
September 4 weeks	<u>Unit 1</u> Chap 1: Nature of Psychology AP process and Class Expectations Major Behavior Theories Chap 2: Scientific Process in Psychology, Research Methods, Ethics, Validity, Analyzing & Interpretation Statistics	
October November 5 weeks	<u>Unit 2</u> Chap 3: Genetics and Behavior, Environmental Influences, Evolution (Nature vs. Nurture) Chap 4 & 5: Brain Development & Nervous System, Sensory Systems & Perception Chap 11: Motivation & Instincts, Emotions	Homecoming Week
November December January 5 weeks	<u>Unit 3</u> Chap 12: Human Development & Personality: Prenatal Development, Infancy-Adulthood, Self Esteem, Behavioral Theories Chap 9: Relationship Between Language & Thinking Chap 7: Learning & Conditioning	Thanksgiving & Winter Breaks

January February 4 weeks	<u>Unit 4</u> Chap 8: Memory & Information Chap 10: Intelligence	
February March 4 weeks	<u>Unit 5</u> Chap 13: Personality Chap 14: Adjusting to Life: Stress, Pain, Health Chap 17: Social Thinking & Behavior	
March April 5 weeks	<u>Unit 6</u> Chap 6 States of Consciousness, Sleep, Dreaming, Drugs Chap 15: Classifying Psychological Disorders, Anxiety & Mood Disorders Chap 16: Treatment & Therapies, Psychotherapy & Drugs	Spring Break
May	Review for AP Test AP Test	
May June	Movies Research Projects	

(Do not tear off bottom of paper)

Your Name

Parent Signature

Thanks!

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Key Club & ASB Advisor

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EdCC: a paragraph will be added if this class becomes articulated explaining the process.