

AP Psychology Syllabus

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The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology.

Course Objectives

1. Students will prepare to succeed on the AP Psychology Examination.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will learn basic skills of psychological research & apply psychological concepts to their lives.

How to succeed in this class:

Bring a positive attitude to class, maintain good attendance, take good notes, turn in assignments on time, ask questions, participate in discussion, study for tests, and complete notes and reading guides.

Note: As with any college level class, much of the responsibility will be placed on you as students to complete assignments and prepare for tests. Additionally, it will be up to you to make time in your schedule to ask for help or make up tests. Tests will be made up within 3 days of original test date.

Determining your grade:

1. Tests/quizzes (60%) will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of only 5-answer multiple-choice questions and no more than two free-response questions (simulating the AP Exam).

2. Other assignments (40%) given to students are reading guides, class notes, outside reading assignments, etc. These assignments vary with the unit being covered. All assignments will be due on the day of the test unless otherwise noted. Most materials will be either posted on the Google Classroom or distributed on the first day of the new chapter.

Online and Google Classrooms:

This site provides access to all PowerPoints, handouts, and lesson plans from our class. It also contains links to several websites that will assist you in your preparation for the AP Psychology Exam.

Homework Expectations

Completing reading guides, notes, and studying for tests will make up the majority of your "homework" time for this class. All homework will be collected on the day of the chapter test unless otherwise noted.

AP Psychology Course Outline:

1. History and Approaches

Psychology has evolved markedly since its inception as a discipline in 1879. There have been significant changes in the theories that psychologists use to explain behavior and mental processes.

2. Research Methods

Psychologists develop knowledge by doing research which provides guidance for them to develop theories to explain behavior and solve problems in behavior.

3. Neuroscience-Intro to the relationship between physiological processes and behavior.

4. Sensation and Perception- involves the interpretation of the sensory inputs as a cognitive process.

5. States of Consciousness

The study of variations in consciousness includes an examination of the sleep cycle, dreams, hypnosis, and the effects of psychoactive drugs.

6. Learning

Introduces students to differences between learned and unlearned behavior w/ focus on exploration of different kinds of learning- classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.

7. Cognition

They examine how humans learn, remember, and retrieve information. This part of the course also addresses problem solving, language, and creativity.

8. Motivation and Emotion

Biological/social factors that motivate behavior & biological/cultural factors that influence emotion.

9. Developmental Psychology

Developmental psychology deals with the behavior of organisms from conception to death and examines the processes that contribute to behavioral change throughout the life span.

10. Personality

Major theories of how humans develop enduring patterns of behavior and personal characteristics that influence how others relate to them. The unit also addresses research methods used to assess personality.

11. Testing and Intelligence-understanding of intelligence & assessment of individual differences.

12 & 13. Abnormal Psychology / Treatment

This section emphasizes conventions that guide psychologists' judgments about diagnosis and provides students with an understanding of empirically based treatments of psychological disorders.

14. Social Psychology

This part of the course focuses on how individuals relate to one another in social situations. Social psychologists study social attitudes, social influence, and other social phenomena.

15. Review for AP Test

We will have at least two weeks of review for the AP Test. Each day we will cover several multiple-choice practice questions, one or two past AP essays, and also have time for any questions.

AP Test: A Quick Look- Tuesday, May 12 2020 2 hours

The Exam: (cost for exam is \$94 and will be paid by November 15)

The AP Psychology Exam includes a 70-minute multiple-choice section that accounts for 67% of the exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section made up of two questions that accounts for 33% of the exam grade.

AP Exam Grades

The Readers' scores on the free-response questions are combined with the results of the computer-scored multiple-choice questions; the weighted raw scores are summed to give a composite score. The composite score is then converted to a grade on AP's 5-point scale: (Most colleges accept a score of 3)

AP Grade Qualification

- 5 - Extremely well qualified
- 4 - Well qualified
- 3 - Qualified
- 2 - Possibly qualified
- 1 - No recommendation