

Advanced Placement Psychology

I. Overview of the Course

Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology is designed to offer students the equivalent of an introductory college level course in psychology. The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. The course will focus on psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with major subfields in psychology.

II. Course Objectives (Curriculum Requirements)

AP Psychology will focus on psychological facts, research findings, terminology, phenomena, major figures, perspectives, and psychological experiments related to each of the following content areas.

- I. History and Approaches
- II. Research Methods
- III. Biological Bases of Behavior
- IV. Sensation and Perception
- V. States of Consciousness
- VI. Learning
- VII. Cognition
- VIII. Motivation and Emotion
- IX. Developmental Psychology
- X. Personality
- XI. Testing and Individual Differences
- XII. Abnormal Psychology
- XIII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- XIV. Social Psychology.

III. Required Texts

Textbook:

Myers, David G. Psychology, Myers in Modules. 7th ed., AP ed., Worth Publishers: New York, 2004.

Supplemental reading materials:

- Barron's AP Study Guide, Psychology.
- *Taking Sides*, 16th edition.
- Annual Editions: Psychology, 36th ed.

A variety of other readings and primary and secondary sources will be used during the course. The teacher will provide these materials or students will have access to them via the media center or Internet.

IV. Assignments and Grading

Your academic progress will be evaluated through a variety of assessments.

A. Assignments

1. Classwork/Homework

- **Vocabulary:** You are expected to define vocabulary as listed in Myers' text at the end of each module.
- **Practice Timed Writings:** These essays can be supported by books and notes and are intended as practice for the timed writing assessments. There will be a minimum of two practice timed writings per quarter.
- **Article Reviews:** You will be given articles relating to the current topic and are asked to look for target information. There will be a minimum of two article reviews per quarter.
- **Section Review Activities:** You will be given assignments on a daily basis that enrich the lesson and improve your ability to think critically. These assignments occur on a daily basis.

2. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes: Given to check comprehension.

3. Tests: Tests are given approximately every two weeks (after 5 or 6 class sessions). These tests consist of 50-60 multiple-choice questions in AP format. There is also an AP format free-response question that will be assessed separately. The free response carries one-fourth the weight of the multiple choice test.

4. Projects: There will be up to two sustained projects prior to the AP exam in May. Following the exam, there will be several projects assigned as enrichment.

B. Grades

1. Marking Period (Quarter) Grades will be based on:

- 50% = Tests, Quarterly Assessments, Project
- 10% = Quizzes
- 40% = Other Assignments.

2. The Semester Grade will be calculated as follows:

- 40% = First Quarter (9 Weeks)
- 40% = Second Quarter (9 Weeks)
- 20% = Exam.

C. The *Advanced Placement Exam* is administered in May to all students enrolled in AP Psychology. If you perform well, you may earn college credits.

V. Expectations

While this course is offered to any student who wishes a challenge and to prepare for college, there are high performance expectations. You are expected to

- complete assigned readings from the textbook and from supplemental sources, as well as comprehend, remember, discuss, and apply what you have read.
- compose and write essays that include a well-developed thesis statement and relevant supporting examples.
- analyze and apply content knowledge, rather than simply reciting or recognizing facts that have been memorized.

| Pages of Reading PER CLASS | Hours of study PER CLASS | Tests, essays, papers, PER QUARTER | Major Projects |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 8 – 20 | 1 – 1.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 unit tests • 4 essays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 major project per semester |

VI. Course Outline

AP Psychology is a full academic year course (two semesters) and is organized into four quarters that are each nine weeks long.

| Quarter 1 | | |
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| AP Outline Topics | Topics and/or Strands | Time Estimate |
| Topics 1, 2 | <p><u>Unit 1: History, Approaches, & Research Methods</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Logic, philosophy, and history of science</p> <p>B. Approaches</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biological 2. Behavioral 3. Cognitive 4. Humanistic 5. Psychodynamic 6. Sociocultural 7. Evolutionary/Sociobiological <p>C. Research Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experimental, Clinical, and Correlational Research 2. Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptive ▪ Inferential 3. Ethics in Research 4. Psychodynamic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sociocultural ▪ Evolutionary/Sociobiological <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 1 & 2 </p> <p>B. Other Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 1 Test | <p>3 weeks</p> <p>7 extended block sessions</p> |

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| <p>Topic 3</p> | <p><u>Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Physiological Techniques B. Neuroanatomy C. Functional Organization of the Nervous System D. Neural Transmission E. Endocrine System F. Genetics</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 3 & 4</p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 2 Test</p> | <p>2.5 weeks</p> <p>6 extended block sessions</p> |
| <p>Topic 9</p> | <p><u>Unit 3: Developmental Psychology</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Life Span Approach B. Research Methods C. Heredity-Environmental Issues D. Developmental Theories E. Dimensions of Development 1. Physical 2. Cognitive 3. Social 4. Moral F. Sex Roles, Sex Differences</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 5 – 10</p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 3 Test</p> | <p>2.5 weeks</p> <p>6 extended block sessions</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Review and Quarterly Assessment</p> | | <p>1 week, 2 extended block sessions</p> |

| Quarter 2 | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| AP Outline Topics | Topics and/or Strands | Time Estimate |
| Topic 4 | <p><u>Unit 4: Sensation and Perception</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Thresholds B. Sensory Mechanisms C. Sensory Adaptation D. Attention E. Perceptual Processes</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 11 – 16</p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 4 Test</p> | <p>2.5 weeks</p> <p>6 extended block sessions</p> |
| Topic 5 | <p><u>Unit 5: States of Consciousness</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Sleep and Dreaming B. Hypnosis C. Psychoactive Drug Effects</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 17 – 19</p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 5 Test</p> | <p>1 week</p> <p>3 extended block sessions</p> |
| Topic 6 | <p><u>Unit 6: Learning</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Biological Factors B. Classical Conditioning C. Operant Conditioning D. Social Learning</p> | <p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p> |

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| | <p>E. Cognitive Processes in Learning</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 20 – 22 <p>B. Other Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 6 Test | |
| Topic 7 | <p><u>Unit 7: Cognition</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Memory</p> <p>B. Language (add to Unit 8 assessment)</p> <p>C. Thinking (add to Unit 8 assessment)</p> <p>D. Problem Solving and Creativity (add to Unit 8 assessment)</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 23 – 27 <p>B. Other Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities <p>C. Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 7 Test | <p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block sessions</p> |
| Review and Semester Exam | | <p>1 week, 2 extended block sessions</p> |
| Quarter 3 | | |
| AP Outline Topics | Topics and/or Strands | Time Estimate |
| Topic 11 | <p><u>Unit 8: Testing and Individual Differences</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Standardization and Norms</p> <p>B. Reliability and Validity</p> <p>C. Types of Tests</p> <p>D. Ethics and Standards in Testing</p> <p>E. Intelligence</p> <p>F. Heredity/Environment in Intelligence</p> | <p>2.5 weeks</p> <p>6 extended block sessions</p> |

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| | <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 30 – 32 </p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 8 Test</p> | |
| Topic 8 | <p><u>Unit 9: Motivation and Emotion</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Biological Bases B. Theories of Motivation C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain D. Social Motives E. Theories of Emotion F. Stress</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 33 – 40 </p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 9 Test</p> | <p>3.5 weeks</p> <p>8 extended block lessons</p> |
| Topic 10 | <p><u>Unit 10: Personality</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Personality Theories and Approaches B. Assessment Techniques C. Self-concept, Self-esteem D. Growth and Adjustment</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook: Modules 41 – 44 </p> <p>B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> <p>C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes</p> | <p>2 weeks</p> <p>5 extended block lessons</p> |

| | 2. Unit 10 Test | |
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| Review and Quarterly Assessment | | 1 week, 2 extended block sessions |
| Quarter 4 | | |
| AP Outline Topics | Topics and/or Strands | Time Estimate |
| Topics 12, 13 | <p><u>Unit 11: Abnormal Psychology</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Definitions of Abnormality B. Theories of Psychopathology C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology D. Treatment of Psychological Disorders 1. Treatment Approaches 2. Modes of Therapy (e.g. individual, group) 3. Community and Preventive Approaches</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 45 – 52 B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 11 Test</p> | 3.5 weeks 8 extended block lessons |
| Topic 14 | <p><u>Unit 12: Social Psychology</u></p> <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>A. Group Dynamics B. Attribution Processes C. Interpersonal Perception D. Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience E. Attitude and Attitude Change F. Organizational Behavior G. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior</p> <p><u>Assignments and Assessments</u></p> <p>A. Readings ▪ Textbook: Modules 53 – 55 B. Other Assignments 1. Vocabulary 2. Practice Timed Writing 3. Article Review 4. Section Review Activities</p> | 1.5 weeks 4 extended block lessons |

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| | C. Assessments 1. Reading/Vocabulary Quizzes 2. Unit 12 Test | |
| Review and <u>AP Test</u> | | 1 to 3 weeks, 2 to 7 extended block sessions (based on AP test dates) |
| Topics 1 – 14 | <u>Unit 13: Performance Tasks & Enrichment Activities</u> | 2 to 3 weeks, 5 to 7 extended block sessions (based on AP test date) |
| Review and Semester Exam | | 1 week, 2 extended block sessions |