





AP Psychology

2019-2020 Syllabus

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Course Description:

The AP Psychology course introduces you to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, you will explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, you will employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as you use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

College Course Equivalent

The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course usually taken during the first college year.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for AP Psychology. You should be able AND willing to read a college-level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

Course Expectations:

- 1. We learn from each other:** This course is not one in which you will play a passive role. Instead, you are expected to take an ACTIVE part in your own learning and that of the class as well. In the AP classroom, discussion and demonstrations will dominate over lectures so that we can learn from each other. Each of you brings something special to the course, something special that our team needs if we are to be successful. Come each day ready to contribute by joining in on the conversation.
- 2. Knowledge for application's sake:** In AP Psychology there is a considerable amount of content you must master. However, you must do more than memorize information provided by myself or other sources. You will be asked to apply this information to real life situations via class discussions or through concisely written free response questions.
- 3. Psychologists read:** As AP students, you will be expected to read the textbook. You must show evidence of daily preparation by participating in class discussions, asking critical questions, making text-to-world connections, and bringing in notes from your reading.
- 4. Active class participation:** The amount of material covered in this course on any given day is substantially higher than in a regular class. Each period you are expected to be physically and mentally present. This includes participating in class discussions and demonstrations, taking notes and refraining from mentally leaving class to check your phone.

Course Goals: By taking AP Psychology you will:

- 1. Develop Concept Understanding to**
 - a. Define and/or apply concepts
 - b. Explain behavior in authentic context
 - c. Apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts
- 2. Analyze Data** – You will be able to analyze and interpret quantitative data.
- 3. Investigate Scientific Studies** – You will be able to analyze psychological research studies

Course Materials

Text (provided):

Myers' Psychology For The AP® Course 3rd Edition By David G. Myers

Materials (students must provide):

- 3-ring binder for class with notebook paper- whatever size is most comfortable for you for taking notes and organizing class handouts.
- A single subject notebook.
- 3 or 4 inch 3-ring binder for your portfolio along with 20-30 plastic sheets and 12 dividers. You don't need this until the end of September and you don't need to bring this to class.

Assessment: Point System

There are two main categories of assessments used in this class:

Formative: These are assignments that will involve you in the learning process and help you monitor your learning during a unit. They are more about process than perfection. Consider them as practice for your unit exams.

- 1. Concept Maps (100pts each unit)** – For each unit you will develop concept maps that graphically organize the information. You will do one concept map for each of the learning goals in a unit.
- 2. Learning Journal and Notes (100pts each unit)** – You will keep a single subject notebook and use this journal to work on class startups, in class practice assignments, and to triage terms that you need to master. You will take notes in a separate 3-ring binder that you will use to organize class handouts and notes.
- 3. Progress Checks** – (up to 50 pts each unit) – You will use AP classroom and our textbook site to check your learning by completing practice multiple choice exercises.
- 4. Classroom Citizenship Term Grade (100pts)** – See Engagement and late work policies.

Summative: These assignments will evaluate your mastery of a unit.

- 5. Unit Exams (140 pts each unit)** - At the end of each unit you will take a unit exam consisting of 30 AP-style multiple choice questions, and 1 Free Response Question taken exclusively from past AP exams. In addition, you will take 2 AP Practice exams throughout the year. One for your midyear and a full practice exam in April.
- 6. AP Projection – (50pts each unit)** – For every exam you will receive a projection of what you would score on the AP exam for that unit. This will be out of 5 and will use the formula and cut scores developed by the College Board. If you receive a 1 or a 2 (failing grade) on your projection you will receive no credit and you must retake that unit exam within 5 class days of receiving the failing grade. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in your classroom citizenship grade. Once you retake the exam it is put into the gradebook as the score that you received.
- 7. Application Projects (100-150pts each)** – For some units, you will be asked to apply the content area to your life. While they will take many forms, they will necessitate the internalization of course content and application to your life.

Policies:

1. **Late work:** As you can see by our class calendar, you are given ample notice for ALL assignments. Instead of taking away late points from the assignment grade and thereby corrupting the assessment data, you are given a classroom citizenship grade of 100 points at the start of each term. Twenty-five points will be deducted from this grade for every assignment that is handed in late or is missing. Additionally, habitual failure to adequately prepare for class by skipping the nightly readings/concept maps and/or failure to meaningfully engage in class will also result in deductions from your classroom citizenship grade. The good news is that if you hand in your work, do your nightly readings/concept maps, and participate actively in class, you will be rewarded with a 100/100 pts on each term grade.
2. **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Either as part of the assignment or as a whole, plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a zero. (Students who cheat historically fail the AP Psych exam)
3. **Attendance:** I will use every minute of this class to help you master this course. If you are absent you are responsible to check the class calendar and use our ample online resources to stay on pace with the rest of the class.
4. **Engagement:** Class time is a precious and sacred. If you are in room 213, then you are talking about Psych or working with Psych.
 - a. Use of your phone or socializing that interrupts your learning, will result in deductions from your classroom citizenship grade.
 - b. You are required to actively take notes. This includes but is not limited to writing down the key parts to a term's definition, making note of commonly asked questions on the AP Exams, and recording examples of real-world applications. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of your classroom citizenship grade.