

AP PSYCHOLOGY

2015-2016 Westlake
High School Room
C232

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Course Description:

AP Psychology is designed to introduce you to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. You will be exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. This course is designed to prepare you for the Advanced Placement Examination on Monday May 2, 2016 at 12:00 PM. Successful completion of the exam will result in earned college credit, and therefore, the aim of the course is to provide you with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory psychology courses.

In this class, we will explore how to use psychology as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. We will focus specifically on how psychology can help us better understand our own behavior and the behavior of people around us. I hope you will learn to apply your increased understanding and make changes in your behavior, while positively influencing the behavior of those around you. As we gain understanding, we will be able to identify incorrect generalizations, remove stereotypes, and eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

Classroom Rules:

This is an Advanced Placement class many other students would like to take. Since you are not required to be in this class, show me through your willingness to participate in a positive way, that you are indeed interested in learning about psychology at the college level. As your teacher, I will do everything I can to make this class interesting and relevant to your life. In return, I ask you to come to every class prepared and ready to learn. I also expect all students to demonstrate qualities of discipline, responsibility, honesty, and respect. Cheating will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero grade on any test, assignment, or project that is not your work. If you have a question whether or not you are cheating, you probably are. If you still don't know, ask me. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, your materials, and your classroom, and this will be a wonderful year for you in AP Psych. I'm excited to have you.

Resources:

You will be assigned one textbook at the beginning of the school year that you will be expected to read entirely. Following the reading schedule I outline for you will greatly increase your chances of excelling in my class, as well as passing the AP exam. If you lose or damage your textbook, you will be fined up to \$100 at the end of the school year. You have the option of buying the textbook online, if you would like your own copy to use and write in. You also have the option of checking out the accompanying study guide textbook from me, for your personal study. Purchasing and using additional AP Psych review books will indeed improve your chances of scoring well on the AP exam, but no additional texts are required for this class.

Textbook: Myers, David G. Psychology: 9th Edition in Modules. New York: Worth Publishers, 2008.

Hock, Roger R. Forty Studies That Changed Psychology: Explorations Into the History of Psychological Research. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Materials Needed: lined paper, **many many many 3x5 Index Cards** (plus holder), Blue or Black Pen, Pencil

Attendance Policy:

You will receive an NC (no credit) in my class when you have one unexcused absence or four tardies. You are responsible for taking care of your absences and tardies with the attendance office. I will be contacting your parent or guardian after your second tardy. I do offer opportunities for “community service” in my classroom, but you must prearrange the time with me beforehand. Refer to the attendance policy on the school’s website for further clarification. _

<http://westlake.alpinedistrict.org/Attendance%20PolicyNew.html>

Grading Breakdown: (Subject to change)

Quizzes— 20%

You will have a short quiz to complete almost every day at the start of class. The questions on the quizzes will mostly come from the assigned reading in the textbook. You may take notes on the assigned reading and use those notes on your quizzes. Your two lowest quiz scores each term will be dropped. If you are tardy, you may not make up the quiz you missed. Missing quizzes could have a significant negative impact on your grade.

Mini Essays and Vocabulary Flashcards — 20%

You will be required to complete mini essays and vocabulary flashcards for each unit. I will assign the mini-essay topics and vocabulary words on the first day of the unit, and you will complete them by the day you take the unit test. For each of the mini-essays, you will write at least a one-paragraph response, answering all aspects of the question. For each of the vocabulary terms identified, you will be required to write the term on the front of an index card, and the definition, an example, and/or the significance on the reverse side. You may hand write or type your study cards. Be sure to keep your mini essays and vocabulary flashcards throughout the year, as they will be very valuable study tools.

Assignments — 20%

Most assignments for each unit will be turned in collectively on the day you take the corresponding unit exam. Assignments may consist of (1) group work, (2) class work, (3) handouts, (4) personal reflection summaries, (5) experiments or projects, (6) research papers, and/ or (7) video summaries. Complete the assignments the day they are assigned, instead of waiting until the night before they are due. You will score much better in this section if you avoid procrastination.

Unit Tests – 40%

At the end of each unit you will take a Vocabulary test as well as a multiple choice test with two Free response questions. If you keep up with the reading, participate in the class discussions, and complete the mini essays, flashcards, and assignments, you will score well. These tests will be modeled exactly like the AP Psychology exam with multiple choice and free response questions.

Thunder Mastery Units

Student Engagement	Assessments
Quizzes	Vocabulary Tests
Mini Essays	Multiple Choice Tests
Flashcards	Free Response Questions
Assignments	

Failure to earn unit mastery will result in a failing grade until remediation is completed. This may include completing missing assignments or retaking the test.

Grading Scale:

A = 93% - 100%	C+ = 77% - 79.9%
A- = 90% - 92.9%	C = 73% - 76.9%
B+ = 87% - 89.9%	C- = 70% - 72.9%
B = 83% - 86.9%	D = 67% - 69.9%
B- = 80% - 82.9%	D- = 60% - 66.9%

Late Work Policy:

All projects, papers, and assignments are due the day you take each unit test. You will still be able to turn in late work after it is due, but you will only receive partial credit for your work. No credit will be given for non-mastery assignments two weeks past the deadline. Early completion of flash cards and mini essays will earn you two extra credit points on the unit Vocabulary test.

Absent Work:

You may only make up quizzes if your absence is excused. You will be required to turn in the work that was due the day of your absence, the day you return. This applies to mini essays, flashcards, and assignments. The same goes for tests; you will need to take tests within two class periods of the day you return. You may take tests and quizzes either before or after school. Please discuss your schedule with me before coming to take tests. Do not expect to catch me during lunch. If you will be absent, due to a Westlake extracurricular activity, it is your responsibility to speak with me beforehand about the work you will be missing. You will be able to predict what you will be missing from your unit plan, but speak with me before your absence for further clarifications about what you will be missing. I will be happy to work with you, as long as you prepare responsibly for your school-approved absences.

Extra Credit:

I will provide a few minor extra credit opportunities throughout each semester. However, if you would like to raise your grade one half step at the end of each term, you may create a power point presentation or video of one concept learned in Psychology. The PowerPoint presentations must be at least 15 slides, with pictures, and a presentation to the class. The videos must be at least five minutes long. All extra credit projects must be approved by me beforehand. You are only allowed one project per term. I will provide a specific rubric separately. Extra credit opportunities only raise your overall score. They never substitute for incomplete grades or failed TMUs.

Electronic Devices:

Cell phones, ipods, and other personal electronic devices must remain on silent in your backpacks unless I specifically say you can use them. If you choose to use them at any other time, you could (1) lose points on the daily quiz (2) lose the opportunity to complete an extra credit project, or (3) force your parent or guardian to come pick up your phone or ipod from me. Be respectful towards me and your classmates, and we shouldn't have a problem.

Curriculum:

The following is a description of learning objectives for the major content areas covered in the AP Psychology Exam, as well as the approximate percentages of the multiple-choice section devoted to each area. I have designed the class schedule with the following content areas and percentages in mind.

- History and Approaches (2–4%)
- Research Methods (8–10%)
- Biological Bases of Behavior (8–10%)
- Sensation and Perception (6–8%)
- States of Consciousness (2–4%)
- Learning (7–9%)
- Cognition (8–10%)
- Motivation and Emotion (6–8%)
- Developmental Psychology (7–9%)
- Personality (5–7%)
- Testing and Individual Differences (5–7%)
- Abnormal Behavior (7–9%)
- Treatment of Abnormal Behavior (5–7%)
- Social Psychology (8–10%)

Class Schedule and Reading Guide

Date	Reading Pages	Topic
August 19/20	None	Introduction to AP Psychology
21/24	None	Introduction to AP Psychology Cont.
<i>UNIT 1: Story of Psychology & Thinking Critically</i>		
25/26	1-13	What is Psychology?
27/28	None	Perspectives of Psychology
September 31/1	15-33	Bias. Scientific Method
2/3	33-45	Psychological Statistics
4/8	None	Psychological Testing Techniques. Review
9/10	None	UNIT 1 TEST
<i>UNIT 2: Biology & Consciousness</i>		
11/14	47-60	Nervous System
15/16	60-67	The Brain
17/18	None	The Brain Cont.
21/22	68-81	Split Brain
23/24	85-97	Consciousness. Sleep Cycles
25/28	97-107	Sleep Disorders
29/30	112-128	Drugs
October		
1/2	107-112	Hypnosis. Review
5/6	None	UNIT 2 TEST
<i>UNIT 3: Nature vs Nurture</i>		
7/8	133-143	Twin Studies
9/12	153-158	Culture
13/14	159-169	Gender Debate
20/21	143-153	Evolutionary Perspective. Review
22/23	None	UNIT 3 TEST
<i>UNIT 4: Development</i>		

26/27	173-188	End Term 1 Infancy & Piaget
28/29	None	Piaget Preschool Activity
30/2	188-199	Physical Development. Parenting Styles
November		
3/4	199-206	Kohlberg's Moral Dev. & Erikson's Social Dev.
5/6	206-225	Aging. Review
9/10	None	UNIT 4 TEST
<i>UNIT 5: Sensation & Perception</i>		
11/12	229-236	Intro to Sensation & Perception
13/16	236-245	Vision
17/18	None	Catch up
19/20	245-263	Hearing. Other Senses
23/24	263-285	Perception. Review
December 30/1	None	UNIT 5 TEST
<i>UNIT 6: Learning</i>		
2/3	291-303	Classical Conditioning
4/7	303-317	Operant Conditioning
8/9	317-323	Observational Learning
10/11	None	Review
14/15	None	UNIT 6 TEST
<i>UNIT 7: Memory</i>		
16/17	326-337	Encoding Memories
18/4	337-349	Storing & Retrieving Memories
January 5/6	349-365	Forgetting. Alzheimer's vs Dementia

7/8	None	Improving Memory Techniques. Review
11/12	None	UNIT 7 TEST
<i>UNIT 8: Thinking, Language, & Intelligence</i>		
13/14	369-382	Thinking
15/19	382-401	Language
20/21	405-415	Gardner and Sternberg's Theories of Intelligence
22/25	415-427	IQ Tests
26/27	427-439	Gender Differences & Racial Bias. Review
28/29	None	UNIT 8 TEST
<i>UNIT 9: Motivation, Work, Emotions, & Stress</i>		
February	481-493	Motivation & Maslow
1/2	443-447	
3/4	447-464	Eating Disorders & Obesity
5/8	465-481	Sexual Motivation
9/10	497-514	Theories of Emotion
11/12	514-527	Fear vs Happiness
16/17	527-549	Stress Management. Review
18/19	None	UNIT 9 TEST
<i>UNIT 10: Personality</i>		
22/23	553-564	Freud. Psychoanalytic Perspective

24/25	564-576	Humanistic & Trait Perspective
26/29	576-589	Social Cognitive Perspective
March	None	UNIT 10 TEST
1/2		
<i>UNIT 11: Psych Disorders & Therapy</i>		
3/4	593-608	Anxiety Disorders
8/9	608-621	Mood Disorders
10/11	621-635	Schizophrenia. Personality Disorders
14/15	637-660	Different Psychotherapies
16/17	660-671	Biomedical Therapies
18/21	None	UNIT 11 TEST
<i>UNIT 12: Social Psychology</i>		
22/23	673-691	Role Playing & Conformity
24/25	691-697	Prejudice & Racism
28/29	698-712	Aggression & Attraction
April	712-721	Altruism
30/31		
1/11	None	UNIT 12 TEST
12/13	-	AP Exam Review
14/15	-	AP Exam Review
18/19	-	AP Exam Review
20/21	-	AP Exam Review
22/25	-	AP Exam Review
26/27	-	AP Exam Review
28/29	-	AP Exam Review
May	12:00 PM	AP EXAM DAY
2		
AFTER		Party like it's 1999

