

AP PSYCHOLOGY

2017-2018
Westlake High School
Room C232

Teacher: Ms. Cathy Miner

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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 7, 2018 at 12:00. 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, 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 Psychology. 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 textbook online, if you would like your own copy to use and write in. Purchasing and using additional AP Psych review books will improve your chances of scoring well on the AP exam, but no additional texts are required for this class.

Take home textbook: Myers, David G. Psychology for AP 1st edition

In class textbook: Hock, Roger R. Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological research.

Needed materials: Folder, note paper, many many many many many many 3x5 Index cards

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.

Homework: 20%

You will be required to complete reading outlines, 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 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. The reading outlines will be in the form of a teacher prepared packet with required notes and activities. Stay up to date on your homework in order to score well on your quizzes and in class assignments.

In Class Assignments: 20%

Assignments may consist of (1) journal writes, (2) group work, (3) reading assignments, (4) video summaries, (5) participation in class discussions, etc. Most assignments may be turned in as soon as they are complete but will not be late until after the Unit test. Staying engaged in classroom assignments and discussions is the best thing you can do to keep this class fun and relevant to your daily life.

Assessments: 40%

At the end of each unit you will take a vocabulary test as well as a multiple-choice test. There is also always the possibility of a free response section. Test corrections will be made available to earn back half credit, but it will take some effort! My goal is to prepare you for the AP exam. If you are willing to work hard I believe we can get you a grade you can be proud of.

Grading Scale:

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

Late Work Policy

All projects, papers, and assignments are due before you take each unit test. You will be able to turn in late work after the due date, however, you will only receive partial credit for your work. No credit will be offered two weeks past the due date.

Absent Work Policy

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 on the day you return. You will need to take tests within two class periods of when you return. You may take tests and quizzes either before or after school. Do not expect to catch me during lunch. Please discuss your schedule with me before coming to take tests.

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 PowerPoint 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 you overall score. They never substitute for incomplete grades.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must remain on silent at all times. If you choose to use them you could (1) lose participation points (2) lose the opportunity to complete an extra credit project, or (3) force your parent or guardian to come pick up your phone from me. Be respectful toward me and your classmates, and we shouldn't have a problem. If I see you using your phone when you are taking a test you will receive zero points on that test, and you will be required to make it up on your own time.

Curriculum

The following is a description of learning objectives for the major content areas covered in the AP Psychology Exam and the approximate percentage 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 and 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%)

Name _____

Class _____

AP Psychology Disclosure Document

I have read the AP psychology class disclosure document and understand my responsibilities in Ms. Miner's class this year.

Student's signature _____

Date _____

I have read the AP psychology class disclosure document and understand my student's responsibilities in Ms. Miner's class this year.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

If there is any information you think would be helpful for me to know as your teacher, please let me know in the space provided below. (medical concerns, accommodations, personal circumstances, why you're amazing, etc.)