

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description: Advanced Placement is a full year course designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings. Emphasis is placed on the scientific approach, particularly experimental design and methodology as used in psychology. The psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields within psychology will be academically examined and critiqued.

The course will provide you with an experience equivalent to that obtained in an undergraduate introductory psychology course. In doing so, you will complete material that most colleges require for taking upper level courses in psychology. You will also be prepared for the Advanced Placement examination in Psychology administered in May by the College Board.

Required Materials:

*Textbook: Myers, David Psychology (6th or 7th Edition)

You will not need to bring the text to class unless specifically instructed to do so.

*Notebook: a three-ring binder works well to keep notes, handouts, readings and returned assignments. You are required to bring your notebook to class every day.

Grading and Evaluation: The grading system for AP Psychology is very simple – the total number of points you receive divided by the total possible points for those assignments.

A class preparation/participation grade is given each marking period. A maximum of 50 points is given to students who are consistently prepared for class as well as participate positively in class discussions and activities. On the other hand, lack of preparation for class, chronic tardiness, excessive absenteeism and/or behavior that interrupts academic purpose will result in a loss of class participation points.

Tests will generally be given in class at the end of each major unit and will cover all materials addressed in readings and class activities. Test questions will be modeled on the AP Psychology exam, multiple choice and short essay format, and will be designed to measure your understanding and ability to apply key terms and concepts.

Quizzes will be given periodically and without warning to check your preparation. You will be allowed to use your notes to complete each quiz.

Essays, mini-projects and a research project will be assigned at various times during the year. You will be required to complete a major research project in the second semester, either a review of published literature (a traditional term paper) or original psychological research (an experiment).

You can expect to have homework in this class every night. As a junior or senior, you will be facing many competing and conflicting demands on your time and energy. It is up to you to manage your obligations in a mature and responsible manner. The key to your success is consistent effort and organization.

Make-up Work: After an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what has been missed. Failure to make up work will result in "0" points. If an absence occurs on a day when a class assignment is to be completed during the period, a different assignment MAY be given to students with an excused absence. NO MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE GIVEN FOR UN-EXCUSED ABSENCES.

Tests are to be taken when scheduled. Being absent on the day before the test does NOT excuse you from taking the test when scheduled. Exam days are announced in advance – plan ahead. Students absent on the day of an exam will be given an alternate exam.