

AP Psychology Syllabus 2011 – 12

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Course Overview

AP Psychology is a college level, introductory course to the field of psychology. It has been designed to introduce the field of psychology as the scientific study of humans and animals through describing their behaviors and cognitive functions. Students are “exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology”. Students enrolled in this course will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice in the pursuit of understanding the ways in which humans and animals exist.

The primary focus of this course is to prepare students to take, and successfully pass, the AP Psychology Exam that will be administered in May of this upcoming Spring. The course will move at a quick pace with a workload consistent with that of a collegiate course. Homework, quizzes, and tests will reflect problems in two general focuses: AP mastery of content and AP application of content. It is the aim of the course to have students work from basic mastery to AP mastery throughout each topic explored. All tests and quizzes will be comprehensive. Reading will be assigned daily and content identification/vocabulary is expected to be completed by each assigned due date.

The course will include such topics as the history of psychology, research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, personality, testing and individual differences, abnormal behavior, treatment of abnormal behavior, social psychology and applications of such topics. A complete listing of topics may be found in the AP® Psychology Course Description.

Homework/Classwork

Homework/Classwork will be any activity or assignment that is completed inside or outside of the classroom. This will include daily reading assignments, chapter outlines, out of class assignments/activities, labs, class presentations, short written responses to material, group work, vocabulary quizzes, reading quizzes, surveys, etc. Homework consists of 30% of your overall grade in this course.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests will be written to simulate the format and rigor of the AP test that you will be taking in May. Each test will be worth 100 pts and will be given at the conclusion of the chapter. There will be an opportunity to earn points back after most tests. The process will be explained at a later date. Tests / Quizzes will be worth 70% of your overall grade each marking period.

Classroom Policies

I ask that when you are in my classroom you are respectful to yourself, your classmates, myself and the classroom materials. Please come with a positive attitude and ready to work. We will have fun this year together, however, we have many goals to accomplish this year and must work hard to achieve them. Please refer to the student handbook for more specifics regarding student behavior / consequences. Any academic dishonesty will result in the failure of the marking period (per teacher discretion).

Absences / Tardies

I will strictly comply with the student handbook rules with regard to absences and tardies. When returning from an absence, it is the student's responsibility to:

- ✓ Hand in the last completed assignment for credit at the beginning of class.
- ✓ Get the assignment from the assignment board.
- ✓ Hand in all make up work for credit at the beginning of class the following day (you get one day for each day missed to make up your work).

PLEASE NOTE: Each Unexcused Absence will result in a 3% grade reduction.

Every 2 Tardies = 1 Unexcused Absence.

Unit Topics and Course Outline

Unit 1: History, Perspectives and Research Methodology Approximately 3 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Prologue pp. 1-13
 - Chapter One pp. 15-45

Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior Approximately 3 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Two pp. 47-83

Unit 3: Sensation and Perception Approximately 2.5 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Six pp. 229 - 289

Unit 4: States of Consciousness Approximately 1.5 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Three pp. 85 - 131

Unit 5: Developmental Psychology Approximately 2 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Five pp. 173 - 227

Unit 6: Learning Approximately 2 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Seven pp. 291 - 325

Unit 7: Personality Approximately 2 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Thirteen pp. 553 - 591

Unit 8: Cognition Approximately 2 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Eight pp. 327 - 367
 - Chapter Nine pp. 369 - 403

Unit 9: Motivation and Emotion Approximately 2.5 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:

- Chapter Eleven pp. 444 - 495
- Chapter Twelve pp. 498 - 551

Unit 10: Testing and Individual Differences Approximately 1.5 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Ten pp. 405 - 441

Unit 11: Abnormal Psychology and Its Treatment Approximately 3 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Fourteen pp. 593 - 635
 - Chapter Fifteen pp. 637 - 671

Unit 12: Social Psychology Approximately 2 weeks

- Course Text Chapters Included:
 - Chapter Sixteen pp. 673 - 721

Review For AP Psychology Exam Approximately 1 weeks

AP Psychology Test

The AP Psychology test is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011. The test consists of two sections that students will be tested on. One section consists of multiple choice questions and the other consists of free response questions.

MC Section (67% of overall grade): 100 Multiple Choice questions

- 1 point awarded if correct
- 0 points awarded if incorrect

FR Section (33% of overall grade): Two free response questions - answered in paragraphs.

- Each questions is graded on a scale of 7-10 points. The score is then multiplied by a number (varies year to year) to make it out of a total of 50 points

Exams are then graded and earn a score of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. The test costs \$79 to take and if you score a 4 or 5 you will receive college credit for Introductory Psychology at almost all colleges and/or universities (some institutions give credit for a 3).

Final Grade

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

30%	1 st Marking Period
30%	2 nd Marking Period
30%	3 rd Marking Period
+ 10%	Comprehensive Final Exam
100%	

I have read / discussed this syllabus with my student and understand what is expected of my son / daughter.

X _____
Parent / Guardian

X _____
Student _____ Date