

Syllabus AP Psychology

Class Name: AP Psychology

Teacher Name: Mr. Myers

Description: AP Psychology is a comprehensive study of the human mind and cognitive processes. Students will examine the many structures of the brain and their involvement in human action and social interaction. The class will provide a rigorous examination of cognitive development, perception, comprehension, consciousness, and learning. The course will also involve an analysis human emotion, mental disorders and their treatments. AP Psychology is an intense and enlightening journey through the depths of the human mind.

Location: Room Number 108

Available Times: Before School; 7:00 A.M.-7:45 A.M.
Seventh Period Planning 12:30 P.M.-1:14 P.M.
After School; 3:15 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

Text(s) used: Myers, David. *Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers. Tenth Ed. 2007.

Homework Policy: All assignments will be assigned in advance, giving students ample time to complete. All assignments should be done upon entering the classroom on the specified day. If any assignment is not completed on the specified day, the student has one day to complete the assignment for half credit. After one day past the assigned day the assignment is given zero points.

Grading Proportions:	<u>Description</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
	Tests	50%
	Projects and Papers	30%
	Homework	20%

Assignments: Tests

Each unit will be accompanied with a test consisting of 40-50 multiple choice questions, three to four short answer questions, and one full essay. Prior to taking the test, students will be given a study guide covering all information from the unit.

Journal Article Reviews

Students must read and review two psychological journal articles every nine weeks. The articles should come from an accredited source (Ex. *American Psychologist*). The journal reviews should be two pages in length worth 25 points each.

Learning Blogs

Students must maintain a blog throughout the duration of the school year. Students will post about information they find interesting and questions about the information. Students will also be expected to answer discussion questions for each unit will also be posted on the blog.

Sleep Evaluation (Skill Category 2)

The students will create surveys regarding the sleep habits of their peers. These surveys will include the length of the sleep sessions, quality of sleep and questions associated with behaviors connected with potential signs of sleep deprivation. Students the collect the data and quantitatively analyze the sleep habits of their peers. The students will present a report of their findings and discussion potential health and wellbeing implications.

Intelligence Test Development (Skill Category 2)

In pairs, students will create Intelligence Assessments based on a selected theory of intelligence. Students must take standardization, reliability and validity into account in the construction of the assessment. The will administer the assessments to their peers. Students will evaluate the responses and establish normative data. Students will also use the data to evaluate reliability through retesting. Students will finish the assignment by writing a paper evaluating each step of the process and highlight their findings.

Abnormal Psychology and Treatment Project

Each student is required to select a movie depicting a psychological disorder. You are to create a video review of

the movie highlighting the psychological disorder depicted. The review should include the symptoms, description, social issues, and treatments of the disorder. The review should also analyze the quality of the disorder portrayal versus the realities of the disorder.

Social Norm Project (Skill Category 2)

In a group, students will select a social norm which they will intentionally break. The students will be expected to put themselves in social environments where they will break a social norm and observe reactions. These observations will form a data pool where students will statistically evaluate the reactions in relation to various demographic variables. Student statistical findings will be graphed and presented to the class using PowerPoint.

Research Papers

Students must choose a topic from the information covered throughout the class to write a five page research paper. The paper should illuminate the topic, looking beyond the basic information, attempting to create an original argument.

Final

The class will end with a cumulative final worth 1/9 of the final grade.

Summer Assignment

The students are to read a journal article discussing mind and body interaction. The students are to write a two-three page review of the article and provide questions about further avenues of research based on the article.

Extra Credit

For extra credit the students are to read an approved psychological based book and write a two- three page report.

Course Outline

I. Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology (10-14%)

Topics Covered:

- Ⓢ Explanation and importance of psychology
- Ⓢ Historical psychologists
- Ⓢ Historical psychological approaches (Behaviorist, Cognitive, Humanistic, Psychoanalytic, Evolutionary, and Neuroscience)
- Ⓢ Psychological research methods (introspection, observations, testing, surveys, and experimentation)
- Ⓢ Statistical research vocabulary (mean, median, mode, correlational studies, tendency, and significance)
- Ⓢ Research ethics

II. Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%)

Topics Covered:

- Ⓢ Neuron (structures and functions)
- Ⓢ Brain (structures, functions, and development)
- Ⓢ Nervous System (structures and functions)
- Ⓢ Endocrine System (structures and functions)
- Ⓢ Genetics (role of heredity in psychology)
- Ⓢ Stages of Sleeping (NREM and REM)
- Ⓢ Hypnosis (psychological explanation)
- Ⓢ Freud's levels of consciousness
- Ⓢ Psychoactive narcotics (psychical and cognitive effects)

III. Unit 3: Sensation and Perception (6-8%)

Topics Covered:

- Ⓢ Structures of the sensory organs
- Ⓢ Thresholds (absolute and differential)
- Ⓢ Operation of sensory organs
- Ⓢ Process of organ transduction
- Ⓢ Mental perception of sensory information
- Ⓢ Gestalt Psychology

IV. Unit 4: Learning (7-9%)

Topics Covered:

- Ⓢ Explanations of human behavior
- Ⓢ Analysis of human action and reaction
- Ⓢ Classical Conditioning (Pavlov)
- Ⓢ Operant Conditioning (Skinner, Thorndike, and Bandura)
- Ⓢ The impact of natural development verses parental and social nurturing

V. Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology (13-17%)

Topics Covered:

- ⓐ Define consciousness
- ⓐ Informing encoding and storage
- ⓐ Types of memory (sensory memory, short-term, long-term, implicit, and explicit)
- ⓐ Process of Retrieval (retrieval cues)
- ⓐ Importance of ability to solve problems, algorithms, heuristics, framing, and fixation
- ⓐ Acquisition of language
- ⓐ Human use of language
- ⓐ Beliefs of intelligence (definition and explanation of intelligence)
- ⓐ Use of psychological and intelligence testing (explanation, ethics, reliability, and validity)
- ⓐ Types of psychological tests (intelligence, attitude, achievement, and standardized)
- ⓐ Role of individual differences

VI. Unit 6: Developmental Psychology (7-9%)

Topics Covered:

- ⓐ Psychoanalytic development (Freud)
- ⓐ Psychosocial stages of development (Erikson)
- ⓐ Moral Development (Kohlberg)
- ⓐ The interaction of physical and cognitive development
- ⓐ Developmental studies (Cross-sectional and Longitudinal)

VII. Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion and Personality (11-15%)

Topics Covered:

- ⓐ Intrinsic motivation (instincts, drives, and Maslow's hierarchy)
- ⓐ Extrinsic motivation (social motives, achievement, and rewards)
- ⓐ Psychological theories of emotion (James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, and Schacter-Singer)
- ⓐ Physiological displays of emotion (fear, anger, happiness, and depression)
- ⓐ Emotion based disorders (depression and eating) Stages of cognitive development (Piaget)
- ⓐ Psychoanalytic theories of personality (Freud, Jung, and Adler)
- ⓐ Trait Perspectives theory of personality (Allport)
- ⓐ Personality Assessment
- ⓐ Humanistic theories of personality (Maslow and Rogers)
- ⓐ Social-Cognitive theories of personality (Bandura and Seligman)
- Concept and definition stress
- ⓐ Types of Stressors (family, occupation, and intrinsic)
- ⓐ Psychical impacts of stress
- ⓐ Psychological impacts of stress
- ⓐ Stress coping techniques

VIII. Unit 8: Clinical Psychology (12-16%)

Topics Covered:

- ⓐ Definition and explanation of abnormality and psychological disorder
- ⓐ Approaches to abnormality and psychological disorders
- ⓐ The use of the DSM-IV (classifying and analyzing symptoms)
- ⓐ The major groupings of psychological disorders (anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, and personality disorders)
- ⓐ Types of psychotherapy (behavioristic, humanistic, psychoanalytic, cognitive, group, and pharmacological)
- ⓐ Effectiveness of psychotherapies

IX. Unit 9: Social Psychology (8-10%)

Topics Covered:

- ⓐ Attribution of behavior and attitudes
- ⓐ Psychological principles of Asch, Milgram and Janis
- ⓐ Parental impacts on behavior
- ⓐ Impact of culture, society, and peers (prejudice, stereotype and discrimination)