

Advanced Placement Psychology 12

Course Outline
adapted from Ms. Carey



Welcome to AP Psychology 12! The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course usually taken during the first college year.



What are the reasons behind our actions? What happens when someone is “mentally ill”? How are fears created? Does my brain control me, or do I control it? How much of “me” was determined genetically at birth, and how much was acquired by experience and learning? Why do we dream? Is there ESP and how can we scientifically test it? What shapes personality? How do we learn? What do twin studies tell us about the nature/nurture debate?

Textbook:

- Myers, David G. Myers' Psychology for AP. Third Edition, Worth Publishers, NY 2018.
- *Study guide recommended and available for purchase in September*
- *Supplemental material will be given in class and online using Teams*

About AP Psychology:

There are two main components to AP Psychology: Skills and Content. The course **skills** are central to the study and practice of psychology. Students should develop and apply the described skills on a regular basis over the span of the course. The course **content** is organized into units of study that provide a suggested sequence for the course. These units comprise the content and skills that colleges and universities typically expect students to master to qualify for college credit and/or placement.

AP Psychology Skills:

Skill Category 1	Skill Category 2	Skill Category 3
Concept Understanding 1 Define, explain, and apply concepts, behavior, theories, and perspectives.	Data Analysis 2 Analyze and interpret quantitative data.	Scientific Investigation 3 Analyze psychological research studies.

AP Psychology Content:



Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology	10–14%
Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior	8–10%
Unit 3: Sensation and Perception	6–8%
Unit 4: Learning	7–9%
Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology	13–17%
Unit 6: Developmental Psychology	7–9%
Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Personality	11–15%
Unit 8: Clinical Psychology	12–16%
Unit 9: Social Psychology	8–10%

EVALUATION:

➤ Tests, Quizzes, Assessments	60%
➤ Homework, Assignments, Projects, Class work	40%

It is expected that all students will write the AP Exam in May)

Homework Expectations & Assessment Formats:

Ample notice will be given for any assignment, quiz, or test. The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in class. There are assigned pages to read in the textbook for each unit and it is up to you to complete before the test date. The quizzes range from using fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or multiple-choice questions. Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of roughly 50 multiple-choice questions and one free-response question (simulating the AP Exam). Other assignments given to students may include research projects, class presentations, group projects, and research papers. These assignments vary with the unit being covered.

What Can I Expect?

This class is a university/college level course that covers a lot of material in a short period of time. You can expect to have weekly readings and study packages given to you regularly that you will be responsible for completing BEFORE any quiz or test. This is a very fast-paced course and it is imperative that you stay on top of your work and up to date. Falling behind can quickly impact your learning in AP.

AP Psychology Grading & Scoring:

Your AP Psychology mark will consist of all work you complete in class and will be weighted equally over all three terms. Your AP Psychology Exam score has **nothing to do with your in-class mark**. After you write the AP Exam in May, your scores will be sent to you in early July and will impact ONLY the university credit you may get if you score well- NOT your final mark in the course.

AP Exam Scoring Scale & Credit

AP Exam Score	Qualification	College Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A
4	Well qualified	A-, B+, B
3	Qualified	B-, C+, C
2	Possibly qualified	—
1	No recommendation	—

NEW CHANGES FOR AP CLASSES:

The AP College Board has changed the way they are doing registration. You will be required to set up your online AP Account for all of your AP courses. You will need a College Board account to join your AP class section, receive additional AP assignments, and register for AP Exams. If you don't already have an account, please sign up at collegeboard.org/register. Your parents shouldn't create an account for you. Keep your account information in a safe place only you can access. More information will be given to you in class.

AP Psychology Course Outline

2020-2021

Myers Psychology for AP 3rd Edition Textbook

Unit Topics	Units to Cover
1. Scientific Foundations of Psychology	<u>Units 1 and 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>History & Approaches</u> - <u>Research Methods</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Method • 3 Main Research Methods • Research Design & Ethics • Statistical Reasoning
2. Learning	<u>Unit 6</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Classical Conditioning</u> (Pavlov & Watson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning by Association (US,CS, CR, UR) Drooling Dogs & Bell Experiment - <u>Operant Conditioning</u> (B.F. Skinner) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning by Consequence Positive & Negative Reinforcers/Punishers Skinner Box - <u>Observational Learning</u> (Albert Bandura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobo Doll Experiment
3. Social Psychology	<u>Unit 14</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Social Thinking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attribution, Attitudes - <u>Social Influence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity, Obedience • Group Behaviour - <u>Social Relationships</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prejudice, Discrimination • Aggression • Attraction • Altruism, Conflict & Peacemaking

<p>4. Cognitive Psychology</p>	<p><u>Unit 7 & 11</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Memory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory Construction • Encoding, storage, Retrieval • Forgetting - <u>Thinking & Language</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts, Prototypes • Problem Solving • Making Decisions • Language Development & Acquisition - <u>Intelligence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Intelligence? • History of Intelligence Testing • Principles of Test Construction
<p>5. Developmental Psychology</p>	<p><u>Unit 9</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Prenatal Development & the Newborn</u> - <u>Infancy & Childhood</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, Cognitive, & Social Changes - <u>Adolescence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, Cognitive, & Social Changes • Gender Development • Parents, Parenting Styles, Peers • Sexual Development - <u>Adulthood</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, Cognitive, & Social Changes
<p>6. Biological Bases of Behaviour</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 & Unit 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Brain and Neural Transmission - Older Brain Structures & Limbic System - Functions of Brain and Diagnostic Tools - The Nervous System - The Endocrine System - Brain Plasticity & Adaptability - Sleep and Dreams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dream Theories • What happens to our brains and body when we are sleeping?

<p>7. Sensation & Perception</p>	<p><u>Unit 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Principles of Sensation</u> - <u>Principles of Perception</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influences on perception - <u>Vision</u> (Sensory & Perceptual Processing) - <u>Hearing</u> - <u>Chemical Senses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taste, smell, sensory interaction - <u>Body Senses</u> (pain, touch) - <u>ESP - Perception without Sensation?</u>
<p>8. Motivation, Emotion, Stress, & Personality</p>	<p><u>Unit 8 & Unit 10</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Theories of Motivation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunger, Sex, Achievement - <u>Theories of Emotion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing Emotions, Stress, Coping - <u>Personality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychoanalytic Theory (Freud) • Behaviourism & Social Cognitive Theories (Bandura) • Humanistic Theories (Maslow & Roger) • Trait Theories (Big 5- CANOE)
<p>9. Clinical Psychology (Abnormal Psychology & Treatment)</p>	<p><u>Unit 12 & Unit 13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Introduction to Psychological Disorders</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives & Etiology of Disorders • Neurodevelopmental & Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders • Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, & OCD • Trauma, Stressor Related, Dissociative, and Somatic Disorders • Eating Disorders, Addiction, & Personality Disorders - <u>Treatment of Psychological Disorders</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives on treatments • Medical and Biological Models