

AP® Psychology: Syllabus

Scoring Components	Page(s)
SC1 The course provides instruction in <i>Psychology's History and Approaches</i>	3
SC2 The course provides instruction in <i>Research Methods used in Psychological Science</i>	3
SC3 The course provides instruction in <i>Biological Bases of Behavior</i>	3
SC4 The course provides instruction in <i>Sensation and Perception</i>	3
SC5 The course provides instruction in <i>States of Consciousness</i>	4
SC6 The course provides instruction in <i>Learning</i>	4
SC7 The course provides instruction in <i>Cognition</i>	4
SC8 The course provides instruction in <i>Motivation, Emotion, and Stress</i>	4
SC9 The course provides instruction in <i>Developmental Psychology</i>	5
SC10 The course provides instruction in <i>Personality</i>	4
SC11 The course provides instruction in <i>Testing and Individual Differences</i>	5
SC12 The course provides instruction in <i>Abnormal Behavior</i>	5
SC13 The course provides instruction in <i>Treatment of Abnormal Behavior</i>	5
SC14 The course provides instruction in <i>Social Psychology</i>	6
SC15 As relevant to each area, the course provides instruction in empirically supported psychological facts, research findings, terminology, and associated phenomena, perspectives, and major figures.	2 & 6

Course Description

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, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. [SC15]

Course Objectives

- ✓ Students will prepare for the AP® Psychology Exam held in May
- ✓ Students will study the core concepts comprising the field/science of Psychology
- ✓ Students will be exposed to psychological facts, principles, and theories to gain a greater understanding of human behavior and mental processes

Textbook

Myers, David G., and DeWall, C. Nathan. *Myers' Psychology for the AP® Course*, 3rd ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2018.

Grading Evaluation

Grades will be based on the following modes of assessment

Modes of Assessment	Percentage of grade
<i>Exams</i>	35
<i>Homework</i>	25
<i>Quizzes</i>	15
<i>Projects</i>	15
<i>Participation</i>	10

- ✓ Exams will consist of approximately 35 multiple-choice questions and one free response question (FRQ) to simulate a condensed version of the AP® Psychology Exam. Students will only have the 40-minute period to complete the exam.
- ✓ Homework assignments serve to supplement and/or reinforce the topics covered in class.
- ✓ Quizzes will be based on assigned readings or recently covered material.
- ✓ Projects serve as direct application of material covered in class. Students will work independently or in groups based on the type/topic of each project.
- ✓ Participation will be based on attendance and class discussion.

Course Outline

This is a year-long course (180 student days) meeting daily for 40-minute periods. The school year is divided into four 9-week grading periods, each lasting 45 student-days. Approximately 15 of those days will occur after the administration of the AP® Psychology Exam.

Units 01 & 02: History, Approaches, & Research Methods [SC1 & SC2]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 01 Topics – 1 week

- History & Schools
- Modern Approaches (Perspectives)
- Fields/Careers in Psychology

Unit 02 Topics – 2 weeks

- Scientific Method & Methods of Observation
- Correlation & Experimentation
- Ethics in Research
- Statistics

~Exam on Units 01 & 02

Unit 03: Biological Bases of Behavior [SC3]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 03 Topics

- Biological Psychology
- Nervous & Endocrine Systems
- Studying the Brain
- Brain Systems/Areas
- Behavior Genetics
- Evolutionary Psychology

~Exam on Unit 03

Unit 04: Sensation and Perception [SC4]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 04 Topics

- Basic Principles of Sensation & ESP
- Influences on Perception
- Vision
- Hearing
- Smell, Taste, & Touch

~Exam on Unit 04

Unit 05: States of Consciousness [SC5]

Approximate Time: 1 week

Unit 05 Topics

- States of Consciousness
- Sleep and Dreams
- Altered Forms of Consciousness

~Exam on Unit 05

Units 06 & 07: Learning & Cognition [SC6 & SC7]

Approximate Time: 5 weeks

Unit 06 Topics – 2 weeks

- Classical Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning
- Influences/Constraints on Learning

Unit 07 Topics – 3 weeks

- Basic Memory Concepts
- Memory: Storage & Retrieval
- Forgetting
- Critical Thinking
- Language

~Exam on Units 06 & 07

Units 08 & 10: Motivation, Emotion, Stress, and Personality [SC8 & SC10]

Approximate Time: 4 weeks

Unit 08 Topics – 3 weeks

- Motivational Concepts
- Biological Motivations
- Psychological Motivations
- Theories of Emotion
- Stress and Health/Illness

Unit 10 Topics – 1 week

- Theories and Approaches
- Assessment Techniques
- Concept of Self

~Exam on Units 8 & 10

Unit 09: Developmental Psychology [SC9]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 09 Topics

- Developmental/Prenatal Issues
- Infancy: Physical, Cognitive, and Social Development
- Adolescence: Physical, Cognitive, and Social Development
- Sex and Gender
- Adulthood: Physical, Cognitive, and Social Development

~Exam on Unit 09

Unit 11: Testing and Individual Differences [SC11]

Approximate Time: 1 week

Unit 11 Topics

- Types of Intelligence
- Overview of Intelligence Tests
- Functions in Intelligence: Age, Race, Gender, etc

~Exam on Unit 11

Unit 12: Abnormal Behavior [SC12]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 12 Topics

- Overview of Psychological Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Dissociative Disorders
- Somatic Symptom Disorders
- Depressive/Mood Disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Personality Disorders

~Exam on Unit 12

Unit 13: Treatment of Abnormal Behavior [SC13]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 13 Topics

- Overview – Types of Therapy
- Various Approaches to Treatment
- Prevention & Evaluating Therapies

~Exam on Unit 13

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Unit 14: Social Psychology [SC14]

Approximate Time: 3 weeks

Unit 14 Topics

- Attitude & Behavior
- Conformity, Obedience, Group Behavior
- Group Relations – Prejudice & Discrimination
- Aggression
- Types of Social Interaction

~Exam on Unit 14

Review for AP® Psychology Exam [SC15]

Approximate Time: 2 weeks

Practice: Multiple Choice – 1 week

Practice: Free Response Questions – 1 week
