

# AP PSYCHOLOGY

## 2022-2023

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This syllabus represents a **one year**, college-level course that prepares students for the AP® Psychology exam and for more advanced work in college. Students will learn about the field of psychology through in-depth study, class discussions, video demonstrations, presentations, simulated experiments, instructional videos, independent reading options, extension projects, special guests (when/of possible), and through both independent and small-group projects. The student products that are created in this course will be quite varied, in order to explore the many facets of the field.

### Primary Course Objectives

1. Students will prepare throughout the year to be successful on the Advanced Placement examination in Psychology.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. And, they will be able to use the key terms in their everyday applications and vocabulary.
3. Students will learn the essential skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise research projects, interpret and generalize results and be able to evaluate the validity of research reports.
4. Students will be able to identify, investigate & apply psychological concepts within controlled applications. And, students will also be able to consider how these concepts apply to their own lives. Additionally, they will be able to actively recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
5. Students will refine their enhanced critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the inherent danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any potential psychological theory without careful & objective evaluation.
6. Students will use cross-curricular applications to further develop their reading, writing, listening and discussion skills.

### TEXTBOOK and RESOURCES FOR AP® PSYCHOLOGY

#### (\*) Additional Textbook (recommended):

Fineburg, Amy C. and Myers, David G. **Meyer's Psychology for AP**, New York: Worth, 2011. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

#### Classroom E-Textbook (provided by the district):

Ciccarelli & White, **Psychology, AP® Edition 4e** ©2015 (with access to MyPsychLab): Pearson Publications.

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### Course Expectations:

Although our class time will often allow students to openly discuss & participate in labs or activities to test the ideas and theories we will discuss, the foundation of their knowledge will come from their outside reading and study group sessions. **Students will be required to do all of their textbook reading outside of class.** There are 2 textbooks that are ideal for this course, and one (e-text) has been provided by the district. The other text, that is recommended/preferred by the instructor, would be great if we are able to secure enough copies to provide a class set. (However, students might also be able to find/access their own copy of the recommended text if they are able to find an affordable (used) version to purchase.)

**Regarding student assignments:** Students, please be advised that communication and participation are absolutely paramount for you to get the full content & appreciate for this course.

And, if at any time you have additional struggles or concerns, it is extremely important that you reach out to me as soon as you notice that you are struggling. You need to be your best advocate. And, together, we will make sure that you have a successful year!

There is a substantial amount of vocabulary that accompanies the content of this course and it is the student's responsibility to be caught up with both the reading and terminology prior to our in-class discussions and activities. In addition, students will be expected to maintain their materials (class notes/assignments/activity results) throughout the year for reference. Students are encouraged to complete vocabulary flashcards (using Quizlet) as we go through the units of the textbook in order to create study resources for themselves, while also earning extra credit. (As we cover each unit, you will see a CANVAS assignment that corresponds with the unit. If you complete a quizlet study list of the terms for that unit, you will get an additional "minor" grade. If you elect not to complete it, your grade will say "excused" in the gradebook and it will not count against you.)

Additionally, each semester, the students will select 1 independent reading text to help supplement their opportunity for personal experiences in AP Psych. Each semester, I will share a list of books that the students may choose from and I will encourage the students to select a book that is of personal interest to them.

**It is absolutely paramount that students keep up with the textual content of the course.** Students, please be advised that absences (& the subsequent amount of make-up work that is generated by these absences) could become a significant barrier in your pursuit of success in this course. As seniors, it is exclusively your responsibility to BOTH request & make-up any/all missed work. However, be advised that not all in-class activities and labs can be "recreated" in a one-on-one setting after-the-fact, so there is some potential for missed experiences if an absence is unavoidable.

- ➔ If students keep up with the textbook (& other assigned readings) & keep building up their vocabulary (throughout the course) and are fully-engaged & present for class discussions/activities, they will have no problem succeeding in the course (& on the AP exam). 😊

**Strategies for Student Success:** *As small as the grade may seem, I highly encourage all of my students to take advantage of the vocabulary (extra credit) opportunity. It is a great help to your cycle grade and at the end of the course you will have an invaluable study resource ready-to-go as you prepare for the AP EXAM. And, throughout the course, students should be very mindful if they feel as if they are confused (about expectations or assignments) or falling behind.*

*And, although, I am always available (via email, or a scheduled 1-on-1 TEAMS conference, in-person conference, etc.) to advise any student that feels like he/she/they/etc. is falling behind or getting lost, you should keep in mind that there are other ways that **YOU can help yourself** to stay on track. SUCH AS:*

- 1) **using the supplemental study resources** that are provided for you on CANVAS (they are literally there to help you!)
- 2) **reading through the textbook(s) quickly**, at the start of each new unit, so you are ready for the classroom activities (recommendation: based upon your other obligations, you should make a reading schedule for yourself to stay on track!)
- 3) **creating deadline reminders** (in your personal planner or your phone) for **all known due dates -- & update it continuously**
- 4) **using your own technology** (or other techniques) to create incremental reminders & break up your tasks (for the bigger/extended -or- group assignments)
- 5) & I would like to highly encourage all of my students to have at least one "**classroom buddy**" that can help them keep up with the reading/studying/general assignments.



*You are each other's greatest resource! Help each other out.*



**\* Additional Course Activities and Resources that may be used throughout our learning:**

- Student-conducted observation/research/experimentation (in both: individual & group projects)
- Collegeboard materials (released exams, essay prompts, scored essays, AP-designed materials, etc.)
- Classroom discussions/Films/Documentaries/Crash Course videos/TED Talks
- Academic Journal Articles and Current Event News Articles (*such as Psychology Today, Scientific America's Mind, and Science, and also frequent publications from the American Psychological Association and other scholarly journals/periodicals*)
- Local Experts in a psychological career field (Guest Speakers) – whenever possible
- Independent reading assignment (students will select a full-length non-fiction text to read each semester)

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### ***AP Psychology: Course Content (by unit)***

Each textbook unit topic is listed, along with the predicted percentage for how each category will be represented on the AP Psychology exam. (\*percentages provided by Collegeboard, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-psychology/course>)

### **CollegeBoard 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%

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**Course Grading:** Students will be evaluated on their mastery and competence in a myriad of ways. And, to best support the flexibility that is needed for this year's unprecedented uncertainties, the course will only have two grading categories.

- **60% Major Grades:** objective tests, (individual) major writing assignments, individual projects, and small-group projects/presentations
- **40% Minor Grades:** AP MC quizzes (via CollegeBoard classroom), CANVAS discussions, content-related CANVAS reflections and assignments, in-class discussions, in-class labs/activities, and the \*optional\* vocab activities (via Quizlet), etc.

**In order for your assignments to retain the potential to receive full credit, they must be submitted prior to the assigned deadline.**

**Late Policy:** Individual Major Grade assignments that are turned in *after* the due date but are received within **2 school** days of the assigned due date, will be scored for *up to a maximum grade of 70*. (Individual Major Grade Assignments that are submitted beyond this window, will receive a zero.)

→ → Due to the class time, and work time, you will be given for your minor class assignments, there should not be any reason for your other assignments to be late. [You can expect a "0" in the grade book for assignments that are not submitted by the published deadline.]

**Retake Policy:** 2 retakes are available on the major tests, per 6-week cycle. **[PLEASE NOTE:** If a student would like to take advantage of this opportunity, they must request it in writing (via email) so that the teacher can work with them & schedule the retake assignment.]

**Semester Final Exams:** At the end of each semester, a final exam will be given consisting of multiple-choice questions taken (predominantly) from the previous quizzes, activities, and unit tests. It will be taken using **the CollegeBoard AP Classroom website**.

### **2023 AP Psychology Exam Date:**

The AP Exam will be on **TUESDAY May 2nd , 2023 at noon**. (Format: paper test)

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AP PSYCH STUDENTS:

*Keep in mind, this is an **AP-level elective**. And, as such, it comes with a substantial workload. Keep in mind that you already have **A LOT** of demands upon your time as a senior... so, if you are not prepared to fully-commit to the **independent reading workload** of this course, I suggest that you contact your counselor and revisit your other elective options.*

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**~ PROTECTING OUR CLASSROOM CULTURE ~** Due to the candid discussions that we will be having in class, you are expected to be fully **considerate** and **respectful** of your peers' opinions – at all times. Aspects of Psychology often touch each family differently, so students are expected to be open-minded and considerate of the varying perspectives that might arise as we discuss all of the facets that we examine throughout the course.

- ➔ Students are always highly encouraged to learn from the perspectives of others.
- ➔ And, above all, students will maintain a positive and supportive classroom for all students so that they may feel safe & comfortable in sharing their views.
- ➔ **No bullying or belittling will be tolerated. EVER. Students are expected to be mature enough to uplift each other and exercise empathy to understand multiple perspectives.**
- ➔ You have all read & acknowledged the Student Honor Code and you have also agreed to uphold the Academic Honor Code. Students are expected to embody a positive and supportive role while they are in my classroom.
- ➔ Any violations of our classroom trust will immediately be referred to the administration.

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**ADDITIONALLY : ALL STUDENT WORK SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL\* AND IT MUST BE YOUR OWN!**

**Academic Honesty is expected at all times.**

\* **Be advised, "original" means that the student content that is submitted to the teacher has been created by the same individual that turned it in & that all outside resources have been properly credited.** Any attempts to subvert original submissions, or submit any uncredited/miscredited content (even if it is due to a student's negligence, will be considered deliberate plagiarism and receive both a zero and a referral to the administration. Please refer to this website for a thorough definition of "plagiarism": <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>

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**Teacher's Note:** I am so excited to have this course, and I hope that you are too! This year will be a lot of work, but I hope that it will become a labor of love for you. I am also hoping that – no matter what you plan to study in college – this course broadens your personal perspective and helps you learn about the amazing power of the human mind. Thank you for joining me on this journey!

*~ Ms. Casperson*

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