

AP Psychology Syllabus
DeBaKey High School for Health Professions

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Textbook: Psychology AP Edition, Ciccaralli, Saundra and White, J. Nolan, Pearson, 4th ed , 2015
Forty Experiments that Changed Psychology, Roger R Hock, Prentice Hall, 2009

I. Course Purposes

Advanced Placement Psychology is a ONE YEAR college level survey course. The fall semester is called AP Psychology; the second semester of the course is called Advanced Studies in AP Psychology. Advanced Placement Psychology is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with issues and events in psychology and with intermediate college courses. Students will learn to write concise analyses of experiments and hypothetical situations using clear scientific writing and accurate vocabulary. AP Psychology introduces students to a scientific study of behavior and mental processes in humans and other animals. Students will learn many of the basic principles, methods of scientific inquiry, ethics, and phenomena of major subfields of psychology. It provides seniors (and some juniors) an opportunity to receive credit for their high school elective psychology course AND college credit. Curriculum, materials, expectations, and workload are designed to meet these objectives. Students planning to become physicians should note human behavior (psychology) has been added to the MCAT exam effective in May 2015; one fourth of the new MCAT is behavioral sciences, as much as either biology or chemistry!

Scope and Sequence of AP Psychology: Please refer to the Course View and Exam Description on the College Board @ website.

Materials Needed: Bring to class each day: Binder with (3) sections for (1) class notes and handouts, (2) vocabulary definitions, and (3) study guide questions. Please also bring a blue or black ink pen, **12 colored pencils**. **You must bring your HISD computer, the above listed supplies, completed homework and any other required materials to class every day. You are expected to come to class fully prepared to participate in class discussion, writing activities, reading activities, and speech activities.**

Assignments/Homework: Expect a reading assignment **each** class period. Reading text is essential. All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class period on the day due and **before** the chapter or unit exams. Assignments and homework are to be hand written in blue or black ink (except diagrams are done in pencil) with MLA headings. Homework must be legible. Diagrams should be reasonably neat.

Vocabulary Words: Solid knowledge of psychology vocabulary words and how to apply them is the foundation of the course and success on the two-hour AP Psychology exam. Students must be able to create and recognize examples of the vocabulary concepts. Students must write their definitions by hand in dark blue or black ink on notebook paper, and number the words in the order the words appear on the HUB. Vocabulary words will be due at the start of class the day before each unit exam. Students should keep the graded vocabulary as part of their study guide for exams, the course final exam, and the May AP exam.

School Policy on Failed Assignments and Exams: Students must make arrangements to do the retake outside of normal class periods within **two days** of learning of their failure. 70 is the top score possible. Failed assignments may be redone but must be turned in to Ms. Christen by the start of next regular class meeting with a top score of 70 possible. See the DeBaKey Policy for details.

Grades: Daily work grades comprise 15% of the grade for each cycle; it includes charts and diagrams, vocabulary definitions, assorted classroom, activities and study guide questions. 25% of the grade will consist of small projects, and quizzes. AP exam style multiple choice questions and FRQs will comprise another 60% of the cycle grades. Students will be informed at the start of a grading cycle if this formula is to be changed.

Late Work: All assignments are due **ON TIME**. Late work will be accepted up to one day late with a maximum grade of 70%. After that day, the student will be given a zero. If work is turned in after then, the highest possible grade is 50% (per teacher discretion). No late work will be accepted after the unit test. All work must be complete as partially completed work will not be accepted.

Class Rules and Policies: Please refer to your student handbook for school policy concerning Tardiness, Progress Reports, Detention, Dress Code, Gum, Eating in Class, Cheating, and the new electronics policy. In addition, please keep an atmosphere of respect for all in our classroom, and do not use profanity. Students are not excused to the restroom for the first 20 minutes and last 20 minutes of class.

Academic Integrity: All students are held accountable to the campus's Academic Honor Code as well as HISD policies regarding academic integrity/cheating. To supplement these policies, we would like to remind students that cheating, copying, talking during assessments, having a phone out, and plagiarizing will not be tolerated in this course. All assignments, handouts, notecards, homework, etc. are expected to be completed **INDIVIDUALLY** by the student, unless **EXPLICITLY** stated in the assignment instructions. It should be noted that academic dishonesty extends to any student aiding another student by providing test answers, quiz answers, assignment answers, or any disclosure of in-class activities including taking pictures of assessments prior to the other student having received the activity/information directly from the teacher. Any student displaying academic dishonesty will face the full consequences of their actions. In like manner, the student will receive a "P" in conduct and a **zero** on the assignment. There will *not* be an opportunity to make up the assignment. Academic Integrity applies to **ALL** parties involved, not simply the individual receiving assistance. **(If a cell phone or smartwatch is present during ANY assessment, the student in possession of it will receive an automatic zero).**

*** Refer to DeBaKey Student Handbook for the full list of consequences for cheating. ***

Electronic use policy: Approved HISD devices can only be used at teacher discretion. Personal computers or other devices will not be allowed at any time

Tardiness/Dress Code: Students who arrive after the bell rings or out of dress code will be sent directly to the Office to sign in with the Vice Principal They will not be admitted to class without a note from the front office, with the exception of late buses.

NOTE: *Should any circumstance or situation arise outside of the classroom that may interfere with your ability to fully participate in class please advise and counsel with your teacher. It is the goal of the social studies department that you are successful.*

Unplanned School Closing Plan: In the event of an unplanned school wide closing (hurricane, flood, snow day, etc.), students are to check the HUB for instructions and materials.

Completion of Work after an Absence:

1. Students absent on the day an assignment is GIVEN will have 3 school days to make up work.
2. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is DUE must be prepared to take the test or hand in the assignment the day they return to school.
3. The teacher may give extensions for students with extended illnesses or emergencies on an individual basis.
4. Extensions will not be given for lack of organization or planning by the student (e.g., inkless printers, crashed programs, forgotten materials, last minute realizing you need help, etc.)
5. Students who are absent from class for any reason are responsible for the work they miss. Call more than one classmate to be sure your first source got the full and accurate assignment.

AP Psychology – Complete and Return to Teacher Please complete this form by 8/30/2019.

Students:

I have read the 2019-2020 Syllabus for AP Psychology and understand my responsibilities as a student in this one-year course and the requirements to maintain good standing.

Student signature, followed by printed name

Parents:

I have read the course syllabus for AP Psychology and understand my daughter's / son's responsibilities in this one year course. I know that if I have any questions or concerns, that I am to contact the teacher, Ms. Christen, by email (achriste@houstonisd.org), or to schedule a conference with Ms. Christen. (Her conference period is on B2.)

Parents, please print the following information (used only by teacher to contact parents):

1. _____
Parent or guardian's signature, followed by printed name.

_____ Parent's telephone number