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AP Psychology Course Syllabus 2022-2023

Instructor: Mr. Andrae James

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Room: 1123

Tutorials: Tuesday & Wednesday 4:15PM - 4:45PM

Conference: 6th period

Course Content

In this course students will study the science of behavior and mental processes. Students examine the full scope of the science of psychology such as the historical framework, methodologies, human development, motivation, emotion, sensation, perception, personality development, cognition, learning, intelligence, biological foundations, mental health, and social psychology. The Advanced Placement Psychology course is also designed to expose students to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The Advanced Placement Psychology course will offer students the opportunities to learn about the explorations and discoveries made by psychologists over the past century. Students will get the chance to assess some of the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives. Students will also learn the basic skills of psychology research and develop critical thinking skills. The Advanced Placement Psychology course aims to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of most college introductory psychology courses. This course will prepare students to successfully conquer the AP Psychology Exam.

Ongoing Objectives/ Unit Overview:

PLEASE Access detailed information about the Units by clicking this link:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-psychology-course-a-glance.pdf?course=ap-psychology>

This course will be covered in 9 Units, based on the chronological periodization prescribed by the AP curriculum.

Units of AP Psychology and Percentages on AP Exam:

Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology 10 – 14%

Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior 8 – 10%

Unit 3: Sensation & Perception 6 - 8%

Unit 4: Learning 7 – 9%

Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology 13 - 17%

Unit 6: Developmental Psychology 7 – 9%

Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, & Personality 11 – 15%

Unit 8: Clinical Psychology 12 – 16%

Unit 9: Social Psychology 8 – 10%

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the development of the field of psychology.
- Differentiate the processes of theory development and validation.
- Understand the relationship between biology and behavior.
- Understand how sensations and perceptions influence cognition and behavior.
- Understand that development is a life-long process.
- Understand behavioral and social learning theories.
- Understand the principles of motivation and emotion.
- Understand the nature of intelligence and differentiate the various types of intelligence.
- Understand the basic principles of tests and measurements.
- Understand the development and assessment of personality.
- Understand basic elements of cognition.
- Understand the multifaceted aspects of mental health.
- Understand the influence of society and culture on behavior and cognition.
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology.
- Communicate in written, oral, and visual forms.
- Use problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings.

- Develop long-term and short-term goal-setting skills for individual and community problem solving.
- Understand the relationship of changes in technology to personal growth and development.

AP Exam information

The AP Exam, itself, which is scheduled for **May 2023**. You must take the AP exam in order to receive credit for the course. Your score on the exam will not affect your grade in the class, but you are required to actually take the exam to even get a grade for this course.

Teaching Philosophy and beliefs about learning

This AP course is great preparation for college. While our goal is that you will all receive acceptable scores of three or higher on the May exam for credit, additional goals include preparing students for senior level AP courses as well as SAT college placement exams.

My wish is that you learn to think critically and write as a good historian would. An additional desire is to open your eyes to the world. Psychology helps you to understand the world in which you live, and how and why human beings behave. This course is a wonderful preparation for the universality of the multiculturalism of the United States.

All students who want to try these classes are welcome provided you understand that we will **read extensively and write frequently**. I will provide assistance and tutorials if help is needed. I do believe students with learning challenges can prosper in this class and am willing to make accommodations to meet special needs for students.

Course Purpose

The purpose of the course, however, extends beyond the possibility of earning college credit by providing students with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that will form a useful foundation for college studies. A recent study of this “*AP Effect*” reported the following results:

- Better prepared academically for college
- More likely to specialize in majors with tougher grading standards
- More likely to complete more college course work
- More likely to take subjects in their AP subject area
- Likely to perform significantly better over four years of college course work
- More likely to be superior in terms of leadership
- More likely to make significant accomplishments in college
- Twice as likely to do graduate level studies

Text

The study materials (“textbook”) for this course are as follows:

- Book: Psychology. By Sandra K. Ciccarelli and J. Noland White. AP Edition. Published by Pearson Education, Inc.
- *OpenStax College, Psychology. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.*
<http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>
- Book: Understanding Psychology. 4th Edition. Published by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.
- Active Classroom- Psychology
- Youtube: search “Crash Course Psychology playlist”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRkzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6>

Portfolio/Notes/Journal

You are required to maintain an organized portfolio of notes and assignments for the course. It will be kept in the classroom and submissions will be for a grade.

Grading Scale

Test/Performance Assessment: 35%

Class Work: 30%

Quizzes: 20%

Homework: 15%

Academic Expectations (Late work, retake policy, extra credit, etc)

Advanced Placement classes are intended to prepare students for collegiate academic environments. As a result, students will be expected to adhere to similar policies. In the event that a student fails to submit an assignment by the posted deadline they will be given a failing grade for the respective assignment. Afterwards, the student will have five (5) business days (school days) to complete the assignment and submit it for evaluation. If the student successfully submits the assignment within the five (5) business day grace-period then they will be entitled to a maximum grade of seventy (70).

Retake policy and Extra Credit: I will gladly give makeup work, exams, and/or extra credit, but only by request.

Students are expected to complete any and all assignments given. This is the way to ensure enhanced exposure to course content as well as opportunities to maximize literary skills.

Assessment Methods and Feedback

Students will take assessments that will be created on the AP College Board “AP Central” platform. Students will be assessed using Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Free Response Questions (FRQs).

Feedback: Students will be given feedback on work submitted in order to strengthen their writing and comprehension skills. Also, students will learn the grading rubric and be given opportunities to conduct peer reviews on some writing assignments throughout the year.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are required. It is difficult to learn the content if you are not present in class. Your class participation and attendance can be a deciding factor if your class average straddles two grades. Be sure to see me about any missed work if you are absent.

Daily Required Materials

1. Laptop
2. pen
3. three-ring-binder
4. paper

Classroom Expectations (I prefer to keep these simple and direct 😊):

1. **The Instructor will respect the student at ALL times.** It is NEVER my goal to belittle you or disrespect you. Please feel free to respectfully communicate with me if you feel like I have broken this rule.
2. **Cell Phones:** If I can't see it, it doesn't exist to me. Please don't let them become a distraction.
3. **Dress code:** follow the school guidelines on dress code.
4. **Restroom breaks:** quietly raise your hand and signal for the restroom pass. Please come back promptly as other students may need to go.
5. **Participation:** Treat this class like a job. Your paycheck is your grades. ALL I ASK is that you show up on time and work. Participate. I will try to make class lessons fun so if you do your part you will enjoy this class!

About the Teacher

I was born and raised in Wichita, KS. I am the first in my immediate family to go to college and was fortunate enough to get a full ROTC and an academic scholarship. After graduating from Prairie View A&M University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in political science, I spent four years as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army. I retired with the rank of Captain in 2010. I acquired a master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Oklahoma in 2009, an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business in 2013, and I worked almost 5 years as a sales executive for a manufacturing company. I am currently working on my doctoral degree in educational leadership at Houston Baptist University. I look forward to continuing to work in the field of education to lead by example and influence minds in a positive way.

To Mr. James,

I have read the syllabus and course description for this course. I understand my responsibilities in this course, the requirements to be successful, and that there will be more work than in a typical class. I will do my best to abide by class expectations.

Student

Date

I/we have read the course syllabus for this course. I/we understand the long-term benefits of the intellectual development offered by this course, and support my/our student's enrollment in this course. I/we have also read the class rules and will do my/our best to have our student abide by class expectations.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Comments?