

AP Psychology

2019-2020 Policies

Contact information:

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Course Materials

Text: Myers, David; *Myers' Psychology for AP*. Ed. 2; Worth Publishing, 2017.

Supplies needed

Large 3- ring binder with lots of paper, pens, pencils, 6 different colored high lighters and pens, colored pencils/markers, wipes, sanitizer. **LAB FEE \$15. Please Pay before Sept. 30, 2020**

AP Psychology Exam Fee \$95

Course Description:

AP Psychology is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. To accomplish this, the course provides instruction in 9 units that cover a wide scope of psychology.

In an effort to make budding psychologists out of you, the course will stress the need to think like a psychologist. As author and social psychologist, David Myers, notes, to think like a psychologist one must “restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding.” (Sternberg, 1997). Whether you choose to pursue a career in psychology or in some entirely different field, this habit of mind will be of great value.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- develop a greater understanding of the complexity of human behavior and thought processes
- learn about the various tools psychologists use to investigate psychological phenomena and the limitations associated with each of these methods
- assess the contributions from key research in psychology that has been conducted over the past century
- evaluate the various schools of thought (approaches) employed by psychologists, including the psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, biological, and socio-cultural perspectives
- identify the physiological roots of behavior, thinking, and emotion
- explore the dynamics of cognitive processes, in particular memory, judgment, and intelligence
- appreciate the myriad social factors influencing individual behavior and thinking
- investigate maladaptive behavior and thinking and explain the various therapeutic modalities psychologists use to remedy such behavior and thinking
- value the connection between psychology and other disciplines
- apply psychology to everyday phenomena and human interactions

Course Expectations:

- 1. We learn from each other:** This course is not one in which you will play a passive role. Instead, you are expected to take an active part in your own learning and that of the class as well. In the AP classroom, discussion and demonstrations will dominate over lectures so that we can learn from each other. Each of you brings something special to the course, something special that our team needs if we are to be successful. Come each day ready to contribute.
- 2. Knowledge for application's sake:** In AP Psychology there is a considerable amount of content you must master. However, you must do more than memorize information provided by myself or other sources. You will be asked to apply this information to real life situations via class discussions or through concisely written free response questions.
- 3. Psychologists read:** As AP students, you will be expected to do a considerable amount of daily reading in the text. You must show evidence of daily preparation by participating in class discussions, asking critical questions, making text-to-world connections, and bringing a rough draft of your concept map to each class.
- 4. Active note taking:** The amount of material distributed in this course is substantially higher than in a regular class. Each period you are required to take notes on our class activities, and fill in the rough drafts of your concept maps. As you will need access to this material in order to study for the unit exams and the AP exam, you must have a 1.) 3 ring binder for class and 2.) a larger 3 ring binder for your portfolio.

Core Goals: Change how you view the world and make you a better student

- 1. Mastery of Psychology's core concepts.** – Through elaborative rehearsal and the development of hierarchical schemas, you will master Psychology's most important concepts.
- 2. The ability to graphically represent complex concepts.** – Anyone can make an outline, but it requires true understanding of a concept to be able to draw a diagram showing the structure and relationship of its constituent parts. You will leave this course with a new ability to quickly, cogently, and graphically arrange your thoughts.
- 3. The ability to apply Psychology to your life** – Application does not stop once you leave the classroom. The concepts we study shape our existence. Through 'Psych Immersions,' you will constantly look for psychological applications in your life.
- 4. The ability to think like a psychologist** - to “restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding.” (Sternberg, 1997).
- 5. Literacy in the 21st century skills you need for success in today's world.** –
At the end of this course you'll be able to
 - a. Read** real psychological research
 - b. Write** about psychology for your peers and for the general public
 - c. Use** databases and the internet to **research** new psychological studies
 - d. Use problem solving** techniques to solve your real world problems
 - e. Use technology** to create websites and leverage the power of social media
 - f. Collaborate** in a professional learning community and in small groups.
 - g. Orally** present and debate a complex argument based on psychological research

Assessment: Point System

1. **Unit Exams 45%**- At the end of each unit you will take a unit exam consisting of 20-40 AP-style multiple choice questions, and 1-2 Free Response Questions taken exclusively from past AP exams. In addition you will take AP Practice exams throughout the year. By the time May comes along, you will have taken about 14 mini AP exams.
2. **Notes/vocab 20%**- For each unit you will have a notetaker/outline of each chapter/unit notes, that organizes the information. Some units you will create your own format for notes, For other units, you may receive a packet or other instruction from Stynen.
3. **Projects 20%** – For some units, you will be asked to apply the content area to your life. While they will take many forms, group work to designing a research project to keeping your own dream journal, they will necessitate the internalization of course content. **You must be a present and active member of this class.**
4. **Final exam 15%**-composed of questions from prior AP exams and/or AP level questions.

GRADING SCALE:

- A=100%-90%
- B=89%-80%
- C=79%-70%
- D=69%-60%
- F= below 60%

Policies:

1. **NO LATE WORK-** I hate late work. If you don't do the work on time, it impedes your learning and you cannot grasp the material in the manner you need to. You probably won't do well on assessments. Please have a conversation with me if you are struggling in turning in work. If this is a once-in- awhile occurrence, we can work something out. If you find yourself swamped, we can discuss options that me reduce your workload- this class is an elective and it should not impact core classes.
2. Plagiarism results in a zero. (Students who cheat historically fail the AP Psych exam)
3. I can't change the WCSD attendance policy, but I can say that missing this class is not a good idea.

Attendance:

The WCSD attendance policy for 2020-2021 school year: Students are required to attend class every day or to participate in instruction by obtaining and completing make-up work.

A. Classroom Rules

1. Be punctual. You **MUST** be in your seat ready to learn when the tardy bell rings.
2. Be prepared every day. You must come with your notebook, paper, pen or pencil, your textbook, and any assignment(s) that are due every day..
3. Be actively involved in your learning process. Stay on task and take good notes.
4. Respect others, their property, and their opinions. Do not talk when other are talking (including the teacher). Raise your hand to speak. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you without permission. Respect others' personal space, and do not use inappropriate language or gestures.
5. Wear your masks at ALL times in the class, social distance at least 6 feet. Wash your hands for 20 seconds (yes, you **CAN** do that in my room!).

6. Please self-screen: If you do not feel well please stay home. You can email me and I will keep you caught up

B. Consequences

1st Offence- Conference with me and possible detention

2nd Offence- Parent will be called. Parent/student/teacher conference if necessary

3rd Offence- SRO will be notified/discipline at the door/parent involvement

Severe Offences: Immediate call to administrator and removal from the class. Continues disruption or serious infraction will result in a conference with the student, parent, counselor, teacher, and administrator in charge and may result in permanent removal from the class. Violation of laboratory safety rules will result in a zero for the lab and may merit immediate discipline referral. The teacher reserves the right to skip steps one and two if the offence deems necessary.

Technology violations progressive discipline plan:

(Please read carefully as the consequences have changed)

First offence and all of the rest of the offenses:

cell phone/ electronic device will be confiscated, given to SRO, parent will be notified and **the parent will be required to pick up the cell phone/electronic device.**

Course Outline: The following describes the direction the course will take and the approximate percentage of questions on the A P test as it pertains to each unit within the course. The entire course will be divided into 9 units, each with its own learning objectives and expectations.

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%

Be Advised:

One last thing...finally...THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT

Because of the nature of Psychology, topics can sometimes be quite controversial. We will discuss human behavior, which can sometimes be funny, disturbing, quizzical, provocative, curious, and peculiar. Often, discussion of the topics leads to students giving feedback, which may contain information they might have wished to keep to themselves. If any information shared in class is about abuse or other illegal activities, I have a legal "Duty to Tell" which means I must report information to the local authorities within 24 hours. Please be aware of this policy, and discuss it with your child if necessary. I will also discuss with them that discussion items shared in class amongst classmates should remain in class and are not meant to be shared with others outside of the class.

Students/Parents/Guardians: Please complete the information confirming your son/daughter provided my classroom rules and expectations for you to read. Your signature on this sheet clearly demonstrates that you are fully aware and understand the class policies, rules, and expectations. Return this sheet only with instructions on the easiest way to contact you in the event it is necessary.

Return this form:

STUDENT AGREEMENT TO CLASS POLICIES:

I _____ (student name) understand AP psychology is a college level course. I understand that my work in this class is expected to be at a college level.

Initial each of the following:

_____ I understand Mrs. Stynen has a duty to tell. Should a student bring up information about abuse or illegal activity will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

_____ I understand the drop policy for this class. I understand that is my work is not at the appropriate honors level, I may not be able to drop the class.

_____ I understand Mrs. Stynen DOES NOT LIKE LATE WORK!!! Work not completed on time may be reflected in assessment grades and ability to understand concepts that contribute to future understanding.

_____ I understand there is a lot of homework and work to be done outside of the class, and I am up for this challenge.

_____ I agree to pay the \$15 lab fee for consumable supplies used in class and the \$95 AP Exam fee.

PARENT AGREEMENT TO CLASS POLICIES

I _____ (PARENT name) understand AP psychology is a college level course. I will be supportive of the homework and outside work that must be completed in order for my child to be successful. I understand late work policy as stated above. I understand the attendance policy, and realize that excessive absence will negatively impact my child's grades. I understand the "duty to tell" statement concerning illegal behavior.

I am aware of Infinite Campus and can log on to check my child's grades frequently. If you do not have Infinite Campus, please let me know. I will do my best to make sure IT gets a log in for you.

I know I can contact Kathy Stynen at kstynen@washoeschools.net.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent email _____

Students, thank you for your effort; parents, thank you for your support!

Kathy Stynen