

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

Mr. Ljungberg

Course Description

The Advanced Placement Psychology course offers an opportunity for high school students to be challenged by the rigor of a college-level course, while learning life-relevant, mind-expanding concepts about the field of psychology. AP Psychology covers fifteen main areas of study and encompasses a broad array of topics ranging from the brain and nervous system to psychological disorders and therapy. At the completion of the course, students will be prepared to succeed on the AP Psychology Exam. **This is a course for students who are highly motivated and who are willing to put in effort that goes beyond what is normally expected in a high school class.**

Textbook

Blair-Broeker & Ernst *Thinking About Psychology*, 2nd Ed. New York: Worth, 2008

Homework Expectations

There are assigned pages to read in the textbook every night. Students should be prepared to do a substantial amount of reading as there is a large amount of material to be covered before the exam in May. The amount and type of work will depend on the unit being covered in class. However, on a typical night, students should plan on about *an hour to an hour and a half* of work and will be expected to read a *module* in their textbook and complete the vocabulary and application questions at the end of each. *Frequent quizzes* will be administered in class to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading. Other assignments given to students may include class presentations, projects, and papers. These assignments will vary with the unit being covered.

Resources Needed

- Textbook – *Thinking About Psychology*
- **Crazy* by Pete Earley (optional Summer reading book)
- **AP Psychology Crash Course* by Larry Krieger (class copies are available, but it is recommended that you buy your own copy)
- Three-ring binder – divided into 2 sections (homework and handouts)
- Note-taking supplies – paper, pen, pencil, highlighter, etc.
- Flashcards for vocab terms (recommended, but not required)

Course Requirements

- Be in class on a regular basis
- Demonstrate mature and responsible behavior – i.e. *not talking while the teacher is*
 - This is a college-level course!
- Complete nightly assignments on time
- Come to class prepared , both with required materials and with an enthusiastic, curious and focused mindset
- Make up missed assignments and tests as soon as possible
- Read the textbook and study your notes independently
- **Cell phones cannot be out during class!**

Methods

The variety of methods used in psychology are designed to involve students actively in the learning process and to promote both their intellectual and psychological development. These include lectures, class discussions, class experiments and demonstrations, working in groups, case study analyses, and audiovisual presentations. We rarely watch movies in this class, however, after the AP exam we do watch a couple of films that carry an R rating for mature topics/themes. Please contact me if you have concerns about this.

Attendance

It is *essential* that you attend class regularly. While it is normal to be out from time to time, those who miss class frequently will find that they will quickly fall behind and will struggle to catch back up. If you miss a class you are expected to take the initiative to find out what the assignment was either by checking with a classmate, checking the *Remind* texts or checking the class website. Homework assignments, powerpoints, and other resources are available on the website www.mrlj.weebly.com. It's also a good idea to find a "homework buddy" at the beginning of the year who can bring you any handouts or other materials from class. If you miss a quiz or test you are expected to make it up the day you return to school (unless there are extenuating circumstances).

Cell Phones

I don't want to see any phones at any time...Period. Your device should be put away on silent. Devices are distracting to me when I teach, to your classmates, and obviously to the person who is using it instead of paying attention. If you keep your device away and on silent, I will usually let you use it for the last 2-3 minutes of class as a reward. If I see you trying to use and/or hide your device, you will be given the option to choose to quietly hand your phone over for the rest of the period and get it back before you leave. If you refuse to quietly hand your phone over, you can choose to go to the office and receive consequences from the assistant principal instead. If this becomes a regular problem, a phone call will be placed home. I will authorize students to use devices in an emergency or briefly on rare instances as needed, but only after first asking for permission.

Quizzes and Exams

As mentioned above, quizzes will be given frequently, generally after every module. We cover 2 to 3 modules a week so that means 2 to 3 quizzes/week. The quizzes will generally contain multiple-choice questions, but may also include fill-in-the-blank, or short answer questions. I drop the lowest quiz grade each quarter. Exams will be given at the end of each unit (approximately every 1 ½ weeks) and will usually consist of 45 multiple-choice questions and one free-response question (simulating the AP exam).

Grading Policy

I want every student to have the opportunity to shine in this class. I value hard work and persistent efforts. If a student does poorly on a test or formal writing assignment, they can meet with me to revise and rework their paper or get extra help in order to possibly retake an exam. Retakes are allowed on exams only (your lowest quiz is already dropped) and the new grade will be the average of the two exams, but cannot exceed a grade of 70.

Tests, Quizzes, and Projects – 85%

Homework/Binder – 15% (except 4th Quarter)

Extra Help

You should make arrangements for extra help as soon as you feel the slightest concern about any topic or issue. Never wait until you are completely stressed out or confused by the work. You can see me during my prep period and I am also after school at least two days/week. Take advantage of extra help!

Academic Responsibility

Misrepresenting others' work as your own is intellectual dishonesty. Because research and learning are often best done in groups, collaboration with classmates is expected and at times, even encouraged. *However, all projects and homework assignments must be individually written in your own words.* **If it is discovered that you have copied someone else's homework then both you and the person who allowed you to copy will receive a 0.** Additionally, you must properly cite resources and people used in your research. Failure to do so is plagiarism. You will receive a zero on any work that is plagiarized. See me if you are uncertain about how to properly cite your sources.

The AP Exam

In order to receive AP credit for the course, all students must take the AP Psychology exam. This is a national exam given at the same day and time across the nation. You will take the exam early next May (usually the first week of the month). The fee for this exam is approximately \$95 (subject to change). Students are required to *pay for their own exam*, however, you may qualify for a reduced fee. Keep in mind that while this may sound expensive, especially if you are taking multiple AP exams, a qualifying score will usually exempt you from taking a Psych 101 course (which is required of several majors besides just Psychology) your freshman year in college.

More information about the exam is available at www.collegeboard.com. You can also speak with guidance who is in charge of collecting exam fees.

AP PSYCHOLOGY COURSE OUTLINE:

Note: This schedule is subject to change depending on time constraints.

I. Introduction to Psychology

Module 1- Introduction and Careers

Module 2- History and Perspectives

Module 3 - Nature and Nurture in Psychology

II. Research Strategies and Statistics

Module 4 -Research Strategies

Module 5 - Psychology's Statistics

III. Biological Bases of Behavior

Module 6 - The Nervous System & the Endocrine System

Module 7 - The Brain

IV. Memory

Module 22 - Information Processing

Module 23 - Forgetting and Memory Construction

V. Sensation and Perception

Module 8 - Sensation

Module 9 - Perception

VI. Motivation and Emotion

Module 10 - Motivation

Module 11 - Emotion

VII. Life-Span Development

Module 14 - Prenatal and Childhood Development

Module 15 - Adolescence

Module 16 - Adulthood and Aging

VIII. Personality

Module 17 - Psychodynamic and Humanistic Perspectives on Personality

Module 18 - Trait and Social-Cognitive Perspectives on Personality

IX. Learning

Module 19 - Classical Conditioning

Module 20 - Operant Conditioning

Module 21 - Observational Learning

X. Consciousness

Module 24 - Sleep, Dreams, and Body Rhythms

Module 25 - Hypnosis

Module 26 - Drugs

XI. Intelligence

Module 27 - Thinking and Language

Module 28 - Intelligence and Intelligence Testing

XII. Psychological Disorders

Module 29 - Introduction to Psychological Disorders

Module 30 - Anxiety and Mood Disorders

Module 31 - Dissociative, Schizophrenic, and Personality Disorders

XIII. Therapy

Module 32 - Psychological Therapies

Module 33 - Biomedical Therapies

XIV. Social Psychology

Module 34 - Social Thinking and Social Influence

Module 35 - Social Relations

Module 36 - Cross- Cultural Psychology

XV. Exam Review

AP Psychology Crash Course book and Student projects/presentations

Over...

To be completed over the Christmas Break...

Stress and Health

Module 12 - Effects of Stress

Module 13 - Promoting Wellness

***There will also be assignments given over the February and April breaks.**

***Students will be expected to take a *Mock Exam* which will count as a major part of the 4th quarter grade. This exam will most likely be scheduled during normal class time, however, it may require students to come in during underclassmen testing in March.**

Students will also be expected to take the AP Exam in May. This exam is usually in the afternoon (approx. 12pm) and runs until after the end of the school day (usually 3pm).



