



Social Studies Department Curriculum Guide

Advanced Placement Psychology – Grade 12

Course Description
<p>This course is designed to introduce 12th grade students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. Students are exposed 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. Topics include but are not limited to history of psychology, research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, 39 learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, personality, testing and individual differences, abnormal psychology, psychological disorders and social psychology. Additionally, there is an extensive reading and writing summer requirement. Students willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous college curriculum should consider enrolling in the course. Previous success in an honors or AP Biology class is recommended. Any student who enrolls in an AP course is required to take the AP exam in May of the school year.</p>
Skills
<p>In accordance with College Board standards, each term, <i>Grade 12 AP Psychology</i> students will practice the following historical thinking skills and reasoning processes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Connecting psychological concepts and theories to real-life scenarios2. Understanding and interpreting data3. Analyzing research studies in psychology
Leveling and Placement
<p>When determining placement in <i>AP Psychology</i> the following are considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Performance in Grade 11 World History2. Expectations of analysis skills3. Expectations for independent study4. Complexity of assessments, readings, and writing assignments5. Delivery of class pace6. Teacher recommendation7. Completion of summer work



Subject: AP Psychology – Grade 12

Units	Essential Questions/Objectives	Key Activities May Include:
Scientific Foundations of Psychology Learn about the basis of psychological theory as the study of human and animal behavior and mental processes and learn how psychologists design and conduct research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the methodology of a research affect the outcome of a study? How do ethical guidelines impact psychological research? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Write - Why AP Psychology Design Your Own Experiment Anchor Charts on Approaches AP Classroom videos and questions
Biological Basis of Behavior Study behaviors and mental processes from a biological perspective and explore the effects of the interaction between human biology and our environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can behavior influence our behavior and mental processes? What happens when a particular neurotransmitter is absent from the body? How do biological and environmental factors interact to influence our behaviors and mental processes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and synthesize from 40 Studies that Changed Psychology: Are You a Natural? View TED Talk: Why do we sleep? Label the parts of the neuron AP Classroom videos and questions
Sensation and Perception Examine how humans perceive and process the world around them via their senses and convert those observations into perceptions that influence how we think and behave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we process the information we receive from our environment? How does our interpretation of the information we receive from the environment influence our behaviors and mental processes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Balloon activity of the eye Participate in the Jelly bean tasting activity AP Classroom videos and questions
Learning Learn about the field of psychology that studies how humans and other animals learn as well as how learning changes over a lifetime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we learn? How do our experiences influence our behaviors and mental processes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View and discuss the case of Little Albert for classical conditioning Scenarios on schedules of reinforcement View and analyze the Bobo Doll study AP Classroom videos and questions



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Cognitive Psychology Examine the complex nature of how memory, intelligence, and other mental processes impact human behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What roles do memory and thinking play in our behaviors? What is intelligence and how can we study it to understand? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Marshmallow challenge Seven Dwarfs Activity View TED Talk Elizabeth Loftus on memory
Developmental Psychology Study how physical and social changes over humans' lifespans can influence behavior and mental processes from a variety of perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we perceive and understand ourselves? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate - Playing Piaget Misconception Check - The Baby Lab and moral development Quickwrite - Analyze a published study on gender roles Case study on Lilly Crutchfield "Eggsperiment" AP Classroom videos and questions
Motivation and Emotion Study personality through the lens of behavior and mental processes and how they interact to produce an individual's personality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What motivates us to think and act the way we do? Why do some people respond to stress in a healthier way than others? Why don't psychologists agree? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify which motivation theory "These Pretzels are Making me thirsty" discussion AP Classroom videos and questions
Clinical Psychology Learn how psychologists evaluate, study, and treat a range of psychological disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is psychological perspective necessary in the treatment of psychological disorders? How are psychological disorders treated? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become the expert - Identify and explain Clinical Mental illness Identify the therapeutic approach: mental illness and health discussion AP Classroom videos and questions
Social Psychology Examine how humans interact in groups and social situations, as well as how others can affect an individual's behavior and mental processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does a bias of a researcher affect their conclusions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View the short film "The Lunch Date" Debate the Stanford Prison Experiment Discuss the Activity on Fundamental Attribution Error Discussion on in-group bias Activities on obedience and conformity AP Classroom videos and questions



Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Myers' Psychology for the AP Course 3e▪ Crash Course Psychology▪ AP Classroom Daily videos▪ AP Classroom topic questions and progress checks▪ Podcasts: WorkLife with Adam Grant, The Learning Scientists, Speaking of Psychology from the APA, Feel Better, Live More Dr. Ragan Chatterjee▪ TED Talks, ted.com