



**Dutch Fork High School
Social Studies
AP PSYCH
2025-26 Course Syllabus**

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I. Course Catalog Description

Advanced Placement Psychology is a rigorous course designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination, administered through the College Board in May. Success on this exam may qualify the student for college credit. AP Psychology is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students who choose to accept the challenge of this course should have a commitment to improving their skills through extensive reading, writing and independent study.

[District 5 Course Catalog](#)

II. Course Standards and Success Criteria

College Board standards can be found [here](#). The District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties success criteria for [AP Psychology](#).

III. Instructional Goals

1. Students will study the principles of psychology including: psychology as a science and research methods, historical perspectives, biological bases of psychology, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, language, thinking, intelligence and individual differences, human growth and development, motivation and emotion, social psychology, personality, psychological disorders and therapies.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the scientific nature of psychology and be able to apply some psychological principles to their daily lives.
3. Students will learn the key concepts and vocabulary in psychology.
4. Students will be able to compare and contrast the differing approaches or schools of psychology and their interpretation of behavior.
5. Students will develop and/or improve critical thinking skills.
6. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the AP Psychology Examination.

IV. Course Sequence/Pacing Overview

- Unit One: Biological Basis
- Unit Two: Cognition
- Unit Three: Development and Learning
- Unit Four: Social Psychology and Personality
- Unit Five: Mental & Physical Health

V. Textbooks and Additional Resources

Insert a list of textbooks, videos (with ratings), and materials students will need.

If this course is **honors** and is using the same book as CP, you must clarify which features or content of the text will be utilized to differentiate instruction.

Include additional resources used to support **CP or honors** instruction.

VI. Course Grading Policies and Assessments

- A. Students will be assessed in a variety of ways - exit slips, quizzes, tests, presentations, writing assignments, group projects, etc
- B. Quarterly Grades: Major grades (Tests, Projects): 70%
 Minor grades (Daily assignments, Quizzes): 30%
- C. Rubrics will be given for projects, essays, and other major grades and included in the assignment sheet.
- D. Semester Grade: Average of quarter grades (40% each) and semester exam (20%)
- E. If classwork is not completed in class, it turns into homework and is due at the BEGINNING of the next class meeting.
- F. Tests and other assignments missed due to absences MUST be made up within 10 business days of the absence unless otherwise discussed with the teacher
- G. Uniform Grading Scale and Make-up Work Policy are in sections XII and XIII.

The purpose of assignments (daily work, projects, homework, etc.) is to learn, to practice, and to build mastery. The timing of assignments aligns with learning objectives and course goals. Therefore, to earn credit for an assignment, it must be completed AND SUBMITTED by the due date published in the class schedule or Google Classroom assignment. Work submitted after the due date will not receive credit.

- H. *In accordance with Board Policy IHCD-R, all students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses must take The College Board administered examination. Failure to take the exam, including scheduling a makeup exam, will incur a fee of \$40 or more depending on circumstances.*

VII. Grading Procedures

Continuing in the 2025-26 school year, grades for minor assignments must be posted within 5 school days, and major or extended assignment grades must be posted within 10 school days.

- Major Grades - Assignments that students are given 2 or more classes (more than 48 hours) to produce or prepare. The following will be major grades in all content areas:
 - Test
 - Essay
 - Research paper
 - Speech/Presentation
 - Project
 - Cumulative Assignments
 - Summative Assignments
 - Lab Reports
- Minor Grades - Assignments that students are given 1 class (48 hours) to produce or on-the-spot work. The following will be minor assignments in all content areas:
 - Homework
 - Quiz
 - Vocabulary
 - Classwork
 - Formative Assessments
 - Journal Entries
 - Other department specific assignments

VIII. Exam Exemptions

Seniors on track for graduation can exempt final exams in semester classes and year long classes if they meet the following conditions:

1. Grade of 80 or higher in the course.
2. Has not had an Out of School Suspension.
3. Has no seat time.

IX. Honor Code

In order to foster an environment of mutual trust and respect, we believe, within the community of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, each individual should accept the personal responsibility to exhibit and promote academic and social integrity. *Students will not cheat or plagiarize.*

X. Suggestions for Success in Course

- Good note taking, nightly reading and completion of vocabulary as assigned in class is a must. Since much of the material presented will come from various sources, the student must take notes and keep up with the reading. Class participation and regular attendance is very important for student success. If the student must be absent, it is their responsibility to get notes from another student and see the teacher for missed assignments. Students should exchange phone numbers or school email addresses with a “Study Buddy” in the class and should check Google Classroom on a regular basis.
- At the end of each quarter, any student whose average on that quarter’s work is below 60 may, to achieve a maximum grade of 60 for the quarter:
 1. redo or retake any major assessments from that quarter

2. redo any minor assignments from that quarter

The student must email the teacher (and cc: a parent) to make arrangements for assessment retakes. Content recovery work is due 10 school days after it is assigned.

XI. Classroom Management Plan

- A. The following are general daily expectations:
- B. Students should be seated with class materials out when the bell rings
- C. Daily work is due at the end of the class period.
- D. Students may use the restroom one at a time during class except when instructions are being given
- E. Students are expected to keep up with the class schedule/Google Classroom due dates regardless of physical presence or absence in the class unless illness or other circumstance would make that impossible. In this case, students must communicate with Mr. Carroll before returning to class. We will establish a plan of attack together.
- F. Students are expected to follow any and all behavioral norms established by the class and Mr. Carroll to fit the situation (teacher direct instruction, group work, peer presentations, peer editing, etc.)
- G. Students are expected to follow all rules and guidelines listed in the Student Handbook on the school's website.
- H. Students are expected to use school and personal technology responsibly and follow rules included in the [25-26 District Issued Device Guide](#) and [Acceptable Use Agreement](#). This includes:
 - a. Having a charged mobile device (district-issued Chromebook or comparable personal device) at school EVERYDAY.
 - b. Not using devices assigned to other students.
 - c. Being responsible for their own devices and should keep them secured at school and off campus.
 - d. Following all teacher directions regarding appropriate times for use of the device.

XII. Uniform Grading Scale

See [State Department of Education website](#) for complete details.

10 Point Grading Scale				
South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100
50	F	0.000	0.500	1.000

All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades.

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79;
D=60-69; F=Below 60

Each final grade (numerical) will have different weighting for the basis of computing GPR. The chart included gives the weighting for each numerical value.

Extra weight is given to honors (.5) and AP (1.0) courses. This policy also establishes that courses may not be dropped after the fifth (5th) day in a semester class or after the tenth (10th) day in a yearly class without penalty.

Students may only retake a class at the same difficulty under the following conditions: Only a course in which a D or F was earned may be retaken.

The course must be retaken at the first opportunity within the next year. The student's record will reflect all courses taken and the grade earned, except for courses taken prior to the ninth grade.

XIII. Student/Teacher and Parent/Teacher Communication

- A. All students should use district issued email accounts for communicating with teachers (studentnumber@stu.lexrich5.org).
- B. All students should check school email, Google Classroom and Google Calendar every school day.
- C. Parents and students should check the teachers' websites for classroom calendars/assignment sheets.
- D. Parents may contact teachers via email in order to receive invitations to Google Classroom parent/guardian signup. Parents will receive an email from Google and then need to register to receive emails from Google Classroom. Once a parent is registered to receive emails from one class, he/she will receive emails from all Google Classroom groups. It is not necessary to contact all teachers to register.
- E. Emails and phone calls to teachers will be returned within two business days.
- F. Parents and students who would like access to the parent/student PowerSchool portals should visit the DFHS attendance office for login information.

XIV. School Attendance and Make-up Work Policy

Students are encouraged to attend school regularly. If, however, a student must be absent from school for any reason, it is his/her responsibility to make-up all missed work.

Students who miss more than one half of an instructional block will be marked absent for that block of instruction. See the Student Handbook on the school website for full attendance and absence policy.

Since it is in the student's best interest to make up all missed work as quickly as possible, the following guidelines have been established for make-up work:

- A. *When a student misses a class meeting*, all previously assigned work that was due the day of the absence is due no later than the beginning of the next class meeting in which the student is present. All work missed as a result of the absence is to be completed by the beginning of the second class meeting from the absence.
- B. *When a student misses two consecutive class meetings*, all previously assigned work due while the student was absent and all work missed as a result of the absence should be completed by the beginning of the second class meeting from the absence.
- C. *When a student misses three or more consecutive class meetings*, he/she must make specific arrangements for make-up work with each teacher the day he/she returns to class. The

amount of time given for completion of work will be up to the teacher's discretion based on the amount of work missed and the level of difficulty of the material.

- D. Long term projects and papers are due when the teacher says they are due. In the event of an absence, the student or the student's parent should notify the teacher in advance or upon immediate return to school.
- E. Students are responsible for the work they miss while on a field trip or attending any other school event. Students should contact each of the teachers whose classes they will be missing to make specific arrangements with them regarding all make-up work. Teachers may choose for work to be submitted in advance. If the student does not follow the teacher's guidelines, the student will receive the academic penalty as assigned by the teacher.
- F. Students must make every effort to complete all make-up work according to these established guidelines. If the student has not submitted his/her make-up work within the specified timeframes outlined above or as directed by the teacher, the teacher has the option of not accepting the work. As with anything, regular communication with the teacher is encouraged.

XV. Syllabus Acknowledgement and Information Form

[Form handed out in class or printed out and filled out at home.](#)