



PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

College Course Equivalent: The AP Psychology course is equivalent to an introductory college-level psychology course. (from the *Advanced Placement Course Description in Psychology*)

This course is designed to meet and exceed San Diego City School's district standards, University of California A-G requirements, and literacy framework, as well as La Jolla High School's School-wide Student Learner Outcomes. Additionally, the course meets and exceeds the National Standards for Psychology as set forth by the American Psychological Association. The standards may be viewed at the course website, or at <http://www.apa.org/ed/natlstandards.html>.

PRIMARY TEXT:

- *Psychology 2e*, OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>
- Myers, David G. *Psychology for AP*, Second Ed. Worth Publishers, New York, NY. 2011. (online link will be provided)

OPTIONAL TEXTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER:

A recent AP Exam review book (If you are planning to take the AP Exam)

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary and will be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
2. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the validity of research reports.
3. Students will learn about psychology as a profession, and become aware of the educational requirements that must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.
4. Students will prepare to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology in May of 2025.

If there is any question in your mind as to whether this is the right course for you, come talk to me.

STUDENT SUPPORT PLAN – WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME:

- Prior to beginning a new unit of study, I will outline the major objectives for our focus. It is my goal to make sure you know exactly what is expected of you every step along the way.
- During the unit of study, I will take multiple opportunities to check for understanding. This may include: quizzes, quick/informal comprehension checks, exit slips, etc.
- After assessments, we will review the test and examine which concepts we are clear on and which ones might need a bit more work. You can also visit me by appointment to get a more detailed look at your tests or assignments.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU:

1. **Come to class.** If you are out of school, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes and assignments from a classmate.
2. **Ask for help.** If you have trouble understanding something, ask me. How can you get help?
 - Ask questions before, during, and after class. You may also arrange to meet me at lunch or afterschool.
 - Contact me by e-mail: kdill@sandi.net
3. **Don't fall behind.** Set a schedule and be disciplined enough to stick to it. Complete assignments and finish readings on time. Be prepared for class every day. Review each week. **Check Canvas daily!** (Sandiegounified.instructure.com)
4. **Stay focused and engaged in class.** So much of what you need to know for AP Psychology will be covered, discussed, and reviewed in class. Use this time. Distractions such as tech, homework for other classes, etc will only increase your individual workload. Additionally, there are a number of topics/studies that will be covered in class that are not in your textbooks.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS RULES:

1. YOU MUST BE RESPECTFUL OF EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM – Be a good human and do not be a distraction to your classmates' learning or to instruction.
2. Cheating is NOT tolerated. Any instance of cheating will result in a zero on the test or assignment. This includes all forms of academic dishonesty including using unpermitted resources during assignments/ assessments, copying the work of others, submitting work that is not your own, utilizing AI on graded assignments, etc. Instances of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment/assessment with NO option for retake or resubmission.
3. In accordance with district and school policy, please refrain from eating in class.
4. Students must sign out and sign back in when leaving the classroom. When you leave the classroom, take the pass with you. We have one pass for the classroom so please be mindful of your classmates and hurry back.
5. Electronic devices may be used at the **discretion of the teacher**. Any tech that is interfering with your learning must be put away, or may be confiscated. Recording (audio or video) is not permitted at any time in the classroom environment. For the protection and privacy of all students and occupants of my classroom, recording of any type will not be tolerated (video, still photo, and or audio) without the consent of the teacher and parents. This includes phones, cameras and any other form of recording device. Furthermore, no smartphones/smartwatches or similar devices may be used on testing days.

COURSE PACING: (*subject to change)

A class pacing guide (calendar) will be provided the first week of each semester to help students plan and prepare for the course assessments.

GRADING:

Your grade will be updated regularly on the PowerSchool system. It is your responsibility to inform me if you feel there is an error in this grade.

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

100 - 90 = A	80 - 89 = B	70 - 79 = C	60 - 69 = D	59 or below = F
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Semester grades will be determined by your performance on chapter tests, quizzes, assignments, two final exams, and research projects. These categories are weighted as follows:

Multiple Choice Tests	40%
Free Response Tests	20%
Quizzes	10%
Notebooks/Classwork	10%
Final	20%

Chapter Tests: Dates of these tests will be posted on Canvas and on the front board of the classroom. Make-up exams are given by appointment at lunch, not during class. I will not remind you of this, or hunt you down, it is up to you. (Warning: All make-up tests are different from the test-day version. They are usually much harder. In addition, the curve does not apply to make-up tests.)

From the La Jolla High School Behavior Code: "Test Avoidance: A pattern of absences on test days for the apparent advantage of performing better on the makeup test. If a student develops a pattern of test avoidance, parents will be notified. Any further absences on test days may result in the forfeiture of makeup opportunities."

Quizzes: There will be about 1-2 quizzes each chapter. The dates may, or may not, be announced beforehand. Make-up quizzes are NOT given. Your next quiz grade will be doubled to count for the missed score. If there are no more quizzes in that grading semester, the unit multiple choice score will be used.

Final Exams: You will be given two final exams. The first will fall on the day of semester one finals for the school. The second will occur prior to the AP Exam in May.

Projects: These assignments will be given after the AP Exam in May. More information will be given after the AP.

Films: Throughout the course of the year, we will be watching documentaries and films related to course content. A select few are rated PG-13 and R due to language. Prior to these films, I will explain the purpose of watching and the need for sensitivity and maturity as a viewing audience. (Parents/Guardians, if you wish to have your student excluded from the viewing of these, please note so in the comments section of the syllabus return sheet and I will arrange to have your student out of the room on these few days.)

TEST RETAKE AND LATE WORK:

Students are allowed ONE summative assessment retake for each semester with the following stipulations:

- Summative assessments include unit exams only. The course midterm and final exam will not be available for retake.
- The retake exam will be comparable to the original exam, but will not be the exact same assessment. Potential curves will not apply to retakes.
- The retake will occur in class on a specified day prior to the final exam for the semester.
- There will be one retake session each semester, just before the final.
- The retake score will be the one included in the final course grade.

Due Dates and Late Work:

- All coursework will have a due date as stipulated upon assignment.
- All work will have a grace period for submission by the Sunday night of the week it is assigned.
- After that, students can still submit the work for a reduced score of 80% until the end of the grading period.
- Late work may not be submitted for the previous grading term - meaning work due during the first grading period may not be submitted after that grading period has ended.
- Late/missing work may also affect your citizenship grade. See description below.

Citizenship Marks

Mark	Explanation	Scale
Exceeds (E)	Consistently exceeds expectations in work completion, preparation, and participation, and actively contributes to the learning experiences of their peers.	4
Meets (M)	Consistently meets expectations: completes work on time, prepared to learn, participates regularly, shows respect for others, and contributes to building a positive community.	3
Inconsistent (I)	Inconsistently meets expectations: occasionally completes work on time, not always prepared to learn, participates irregularly, and rarely works well with others.	2
Unsatisfactory (U)	Does not meet expectations: work is habitually late, not prepared to learn, does not participate, and does not work well with others.	1

THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION IN PSYCHOLOGY:

The AP exam is intended to cover the equivalent to an introductory college course in psychology. It includes a 90-minute multiple-choice section (75 questions), and a 70-minute free-response section consisting of two essays.

The questions cover the areas of scientific psychology covered in the course. In some questions, you may be asked to demonstrate your understanding of a psychological term. In others you may be asked to apply concepts from a particular psychological theory or example of research.

Multiple-choice questions assess the first three science practices: (1) Concept Application, (2) Research Methods and Design, and (3) Data Interpretation.

The **Free-Response** questions include the 4th Science Practice, Argumentation, along with the previous three practices.

The **Article Analysis Question (AAQ)** will provide students with one summarized peer-reviewed source. Students will be expected to identify research elements (methodology, variables, and ethical guidelines) and interpret basic statistics presented in the article. Students will also be expected to explain whether the study can be generalized and how the article supports or refutes the psychological concept being explored in the study. They will have 25 minutes, including a 10-minute reading period, to complete this question. Practices 2, 3, and 4 are assessed.

The **Evidence-Based Question (EBQ)** will provide students with three summarized peer-reviewed sources on a common topic. Students will be expected to propose a claim about the topic and use evidence from the sources and topics they have learned in AP Psychology, as well as reasoning about the evidence to support their claim. They will have 45 minutes, including a 15-minute reading period, to complete this question. Practices 1 and 4 are assessed.

Students who choose not to take the AP Exam will still be expected to learn the AAQ and EBQ skill sets as they will be embedded into our class assessments.

Most colleges grant credit and placement for qualifying work (i.e., a grade of 3 or higher) on the examination. Some require a grade of 4 or 5 and a few do not accept AP scores.



The full text of the course syllabus can be found on my class website (www.ljhskdill.com)

Please sign and return this page of the syllabus by Friday, August 16, 2024.

I have read and understand this course syllabus and the policies governing the Advanced Placement course in Psychology at La Jolla High School.

Student Name (please print)

Period

Student Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Name (please print)

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Parent / Guardian's Email

Please use the space below, or the back of this page, for any additional information you think I should know about your student or for any other comments/concerns.