

Advanced Placement Psychology
Mr. Cuiriz
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Room 303

Textbook:

David G. Myers, *Myers' Psychology for AP, Second Edition*.

Classroom Materials:

1. Binder paper, notebook
2. Pens: Blue, black, and red ink
3. Highlighters
4. Index cards
5. Technology

Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of the Advanced Placement Psychology course is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are presented with psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. Students will also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice (Advanced Placement Course Description Book).

College Board's Access and Equity Statement:

1. The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP.
2. College Board encourages educators to:
 - a. Eliminate barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved.
 - b. Make every effort to ensure that their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population.
 - c. Provide all students with access to academically challenging coursework before they enroll in AP classes.
3. Only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access to true equity can excellence be achieved.
 - a. In order to achieve access and equity, students may self-select to participate in AP courses. All levels of prior experiences are accepted and welcomed in AP Psychology. However, students and their parents should be aware of the increased academic responsibility and workload as well as the positive benefits of an AP course.

Academic Expectations: (Subject to change)

1. Grading is based on a weighted system.
 - a. Tests and quizzes = 90%
 - b. Homework, classwork, projects, essays, socartics, & do-nows = 10%
2. Each grading period is worth 25% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25%.
3. Grading scale.
 - a. 89.5% - 100% = A
 - b. 79.5% - 89.4% = B
 - c. 69.5% - 79.4% = C
 - d. 59.5% - 69.4% = D
 - e. 59.4% - 50% = F
4. Missing homework, classwork, and do-nows will be marked "F" (50%). The lowest score one can earn is a 50% "F."
5. Test and quiz retakes are possible when scoring between 50%-79%. Students will be given the score of their retake which will be capped at 80%.
6. Lowest quiz and test score possible will be 50%.

Course Objectives and Important Things to Consider Before Taking AP Psychology

Course Objectives:

Students will be prepared to do acceptable work on the AP Psychology Exam.
Students will study the core concepts and theories of the science of psychology.
Students will learn the basic methods and skills of psychological research.
Students will develop critical thinking skills.
Students will build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.
Students will accept academic responsibility.
Students will learn about psychology as a profession.

Keep in mind:

Motivation is of much greater importance to your success than your current level of ability. If you want to succeed in this class and are willing to put the effort, you will succeed. Attitude, study skills, determination and discipline count for more than the current level of ability.

What you can do to help yourself:

Don't miss class!

Your number one goal should be to learn psychology.

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Keep up! Set a schedule and keep to it.

Half the battle is vocabulary! Learn the terms.

Take notes in class every day. Put them in your own words.

Learn to read a textbook more efficiently (Try Cornell note-taking method).

AP Psychology Course Topics:

1. Scientific Foundations (10-14%)
2. Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%)
3. Sensation and Perception (6-8%)
4. Learning (7-9%)
5. Cognitive Psychology (13-17%)
6. Development (7-9%)
7. Motivation, Emotion, & Personality (11-15%)
8. Clinical Psychology (12-16%)
9. Social Psychology (8-10%)

It is my hope that you will enjoy AP Psychology. It is a challenge and a source of pride that you have accomplished a college level class while still in high school. This is a fabulous area of study. Enjoy!

Raúl Cuiriz

Mr. Cuiriz