

Course Description

Course Name: AP Psychology

Course Number: SOC 6210

Brief Course Overview: The AP Psychology course 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. Some of the subfields that will be studied are biology, cognition, sociology, personality, and research. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The course ends with the final exam covering all subjects in May. Questions that will guide learning throughout the year include: Why is Psychology considered a science? What is to be learned by the study of human and animal behavior? Why are psychologists interested in studying gender differences? How does the brain affect our behavior?

Main Topics of Study:

- History, Approaches and Research Methods
- Biological Bases of Behavior
- Sensation, Perception and States of Consciousness
- Learning and Cognition
- Motivation, Emotion and Personality
- Social and Developmental Psychology
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Clinical Psychology (Mental Illness and Therapy)

What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?

- Explore how psychologists and studies have shaped the field.
- Understand and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.
- Students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate

Prerequisites: Students must be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Strong reading comprehension and writing skills (above ESOL 3) are required for this course. Furthermore all students must have obtained the prior social science teacher's recommendation and approval from their English teacher. They also must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- have earned a B+ or better in the prior accelerated level social science course and passed the externally-assessed exam

- have earned an A- or better in the prior honors level social science course
- Alternatively, students may enroll in this course with the permission of the instructor.

Meets NBPS Graduation Requirement? Elective
Included in Bright Futures GPA calculation? Yes
Included in NBPS GPA? Yes
NCAA Core Class? Yes
State University Core Class? Yes
Students Must Sit for Exam
Student Must Pay for Exam