

AP Psychology Student Syllabus

Welcome to AP Psychology! In this course, you'll explore how the brain works, how we think and learn, why we behave the way we do, and how psychologists study the mind and behavior. This is a college-level course that follows the official AP Psychology framework. It's designed to prepare you for the AP Exam and help you better understand yourself and others.

What You'll Learn

By the end of this course, you will:

- Understand major psychological concepts, theories, and historical developments
- Learn how to apply psychological concepts to real-life situations
- Practice interpreting data and evaluating evidence
- Strengthen your critical thinking and writing skills
- Be ready to take the AP Psychology Exam in May

Course Units & Sample Activities

Unit 0: An Introduction to Psychological Science Practices: Research Methods and Data Interpretation

Time Frame: 3 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • The scientific attitude and the scientific method
- • Explain how science based answers are more valid than common sense
- • Describe the different types of studies psychologists use when each is appropriate

Sample Activity: Conduct an experiment to investigate whether height and shoe size are correlated.

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior

Time Frame: 8 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • How the brain and nervous system work
- • What neurotransmitters do and why they matter
- • How sleep, drugs, and hormones affect behavior

Sample Activity: Create a 'Brain Map' for a character from a movie or book, explaining their behavior using brain structures.

Unit 2: Cognition

Time Frame: 5 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • How we form and retrieve memories
- • How we solve problems and make decisions
- • How intelligence is measured

Sample Activity: Conduct a short memory experiment with friends or family and reflect on your findings.

Unit 3: Development and Learning

Time Frame: 5 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • How we grow and change from birth to adulthood
- • How we learn new behaviors
- • How nature and nurture work together in development

Sample Activity: Interview someone older than you and compare their experiences to a psychological theory of development.

Unit 4: Social Psychology and Personality

Time Frame: 5 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • Why people conform or obey authority
- • How we explain other people's behavior
- • What makes up personality and how it's measured

Sample Activity: Reflect on a time when peer pressure influenced you and connect it to social psychology concepts.

Unit 5: Mental and Physical Health

Time Frame: 5 weeks

Topics We'll Cover:

- • Common psychological disorders and symptoms
- • How stress affects health
- • How therapy and treatment work

Sample Activity: Read a case study and choose the best psychological treatment based on what you've learned.

How You'll Be Graded

- Assignments and Practice Work – 40%
- Tests and Projects – 40%
- Participation and Class Engagement – 20%

You'll also take practice quizzes and Free Response Questions (FRQs) to get ready for the AP Exam.

What We'll Use

- Canvas – for lessons, assignments, and announcements
- My AP Classroom – for practice questions and progress checks
- Textbook – Myers' Psychology for the AP® Course (4th Edition)
- College Board Videos – short, helpful reviews from AP Psych experts

Need Help?

Have a question or feel stuck? Reach out to me by email or ask during class. I'm here to help and can even schedule extra review sessions before exams if needed.

AP Exam Information

The AP Psychology Exam is in May. It includes 75 multiple-choice questions and 2 free-response questions. We'll practice a lot throughout the course so you feel ready and confident.