

AP Psychology Syllabus

Mr. Dworkin-Cantor (aka Mr. Cantor) – North Grand High School

e-mail: ptdworkin-cantor@cps.edu

blog: <http://cantorsappspsychologyblog.blogspot.com/>

Course Purpose (From the College Board AP Psychology Course Description):

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. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Course Description:

Students will be introduced to the various sub-fields of psychology and learn how they explain the behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. Students will gain an understanding of how the sub-fields of psychology are linked together and they are supported by empirical evidence.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn the history, concepts, methodology, and vocabulary of contemporary psychology.
2. Students will learn to read and evaluate psychological research papers and critically apply their content to broad psychological theories and every day life.
3. Students will develop advanced critical thinking skills.
4. Students will prepare for success on the AP Psychology exam.

Textbook:

Text and Study Guide: Bernstein, Penner, Clarke-Stuart, Roy. *Psychology*, 7th Ed. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006

Additional Readings:

Hock. *Forty Studies that Changed Psychology, Explorations into the History of Psychological Research*, 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ.: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005.

Classroom Expectations:

Students will arrive on time and leave all mental and physical distractions outside the classroom. The classroom atmosphere will be one of mutual respect where we actively listen to each other and speak one at a time. This course will involve mature, college level discussions in which students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and opinions as well as commenting on the opinions of others in a thoughtful and respectful way.

Students are expected to take notes during all discussions, presentations, lectures, movies and other activities. Anything presented in class or in the assigned readings may be on

quizzes, exams or the AP Psychology exam.

Homework Expectations:

Students are expected to read and outline each chapter in Bernstein as well as several articles per unit. This comes to 25 – 50 pages per week of mandatory reading with accompanying notes. These notes must be kept in a spiral notebook or binder section dedicated specifically to the course. Students are also required to build a set of flashcards with important vocabulary and psychological terms. Students will use these notebooks and flashcards to study for the AP exam as well as class tests and quizzes.

Other assignments will include free response questions, group projects, presentations, blog posts, creation of videos and podcasts as well as reviews of books, films and articles.

Students who are absent are responsible to get all assignments and class notes from another student in the class or from me during office hours. (After school in room 125 on M,W, and FR.) Students with excused absences may turn in work one class period late with no penalty. Otherwise all late work will receive a maximum of 75% credit.

Class Blog and Student Academic Blogs:

Information about our class as well as links to articles and other websites will be on our class blog at <http://cantorsapppsychologyblog.blogspot.com/> You must not put personal information such as your full name on your blog posts. All blog posts must also follow CPS guidelins for acceptable use of the internet..

Standard Grading Scale:

A 90-100%, B 80-89%, C 70-79%, D 60-69%, F 0-59% = No Credit

Grade Category	Percent of Grade
Mastery demonstrated through tests, quizzes, presentations	40%
Class work including projects, labs, worksheets, group work	30%
Homework	20%
Student Professionalism	10%

Student Professionalism: You get 5 points per day for being prepared, on time, in uniform with ID, and for participating in class in a respectful and productive manner. If you are late (in the room after the bell rings), you will lose 2 points. If you are disruptive you will lose 3 points. If you have an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE you will lose all 5 points. It is critical that you are in class on time and ready to work every day.

Students with Special Needs: Students who have IEP's will be provided with accommodations and modifications including a modified grading scale where called for.

Attendance

If you aren't in class you can't learn or participate in class activities. If you come late you disturb the class and you miss important information at the beginning of class. You may

miss bell-ringer assignments which you are not allowed to make up. If you are tardy 3 times you will be referred to the Dean of Students for a detention.

AP Exam:

The AP Psychology exam will be Monday, May 6th at 12:00 Noon. The standard fee is \$83.00, but North-Grand has a special arrangement to cover all or most of the cost. The exam is mandatory and taking the AP exam will count toward your class grade. This course is designed to help you pass the AP exam. Students who score a three, four, or five on the AP exam's five point scale will earn college credit for the course at most colleges and universities. If you do all the assigned work diligently, and you study hard all year, you will be well prepared to pass the AP exam. North-Grand students can and do pass the AP psychology exam when they put enough work into the course.

You can learn more about the AP program at

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

Course Unit Plan: -

(This is a general overview. A more detailed syllabus is available online via our AP Psychology blog)

Subject	Week	Readings (pages in Bernstein unless noted)	Approximate percent of AP Exam
<u>History and Approaches to Psychology</u>	1	1-26	2-4%
<u>Research in Psychology</u>	2 & 3	27-57	6-8%
<u>Biological Aspects of Psychology</u>	4,5	58-103	8-10%
<u>Sensation</u>	6,7	104-148	3-5%
<u>Perception</u>	8	150-192	3-5%
<u>Learning</u>	9,10	193-232	7-9%
<u>Memory</u>	11	234-274	3-5%

<u>Cognition and Language</u>	12,13	275-319	7-9%
<u>Consciousness</u>	14	320-357	2-4%
<u>Cognitive Abilities and Testing</u>	15	359-395	5-7%
<u>Motivation and Emotion</u>	16,17	396-448	7-9%
<u>Review and 1st Semester Exam</u>	18,19		~ 50%
<u>Human Developmental Psychology</u>	20,21	450-505	7-9%
<u>Personality</u>	22,23	539-574	6-8%
<u>Psychological Disorders – Abnormal Psychology</u>	24,25	545-626	7-9%
<u>Treatment of Psychological Disorders</u>	26	628-672	5-7%
<u>Social Psychology</u>	27,28	673-743	7-12%
Review for AP Exam / Cumulative Course Final	29-30		100%
AP Exam – Monday May 6th 12 Noon	30		100%
<u>Independent Projects **</u>	31,38		

**: After the AP Exam this course will allow students to follow their own interests in the field of psychology through independent projects. As you progress through the course think about what topic you would like to explore in more detail. If students don't yet have their Consumer Education requirement completed, they will have an opportunity to prepare for and take the consumer education exam during this time instead of doing their independent psychology project.

Student, parent/guardian, teacher syllabus contract. AP Psychology

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to review the AP Psychology course syllabus with your child. Please sign below to show that you and your child have read and understood the expectations for this class. Please have your student return this signed form. You may send it in an envelope if you would like it to be private.

The syllabus should be placed in the AP Psychology Section of your child's binder so you and they can refer to it during the year.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Cantor by calling NGHS at 773 534-8520 and leave a message or by e-mailing him at ptdworkin-cantor@cps.edu . Please feel free to call or e-mail any time if you'd like to discuss your child's progress or if you have any concerns.

Please write one or more things you think Mr. Cantor should know about your child. For example, you may write about how they learn best, or about their previous good or bad experiences in science classes or school in general. Also include any special needs your child has, such as wearing glasses or using a hearing aid. You may enclose this form in an envelope to keep it private if you like.

Please note: Students may not use cell phones or other electronics in the school building. If a phone or other device is seen at any time it will be taken away and a parent or guardian will have to come to school to pick it up from the school office.

_____ Parent/Guardian Name (printed)	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature
_____ Student Name (printed)	_____ Student Signature
_____ Parent/Guardian Phone	_____ Parent/Guardian email (print clearly)

Additional Parent/Guardian Phone