

# AP PSYCHOLOGY-

TAUGHT BY MS. DAVIS

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology is an exceptionally wide field, touching on aspects of Biology, Sociology, Anthropology, animal behavior, and law. During this class we will be exploring psychological topics related to all these fields as well as the more "traditional" issues. We will be exploring areas such as personality, development, learning, perception, and abnormal psychology, as well as the classic theorists (Freud, Skinner, Pavlov, Erikson, Maslow, and Piaget) and their contributions to the field. We will investigate recent research into the links between the biology of the brain and behavior. In addition to the basic skills of psychological research, we will learn basic statistics, interpretation and generalization from results, and evaluation of the validity of research reports. Discussions of ethical issues and standards governing the work of psychologists will be learned and applied.

## TOPICS-

- UNIT 1: SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY
- UNIT 2: BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR
- UNIT 3: SENSATION AND PERCEPTION
- UNIT 4: LEARNING
- UNIT 5: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
- UNIT 6: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
- UNIT 7: MOTIVATION, EMOTIONS AND PERSONALITY
- UNIT 8: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- UNIT 9: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

## AP Psychology Skills

1. **CONCEPT UNDERSTANDING: DEFINE, EXPLAIN AND APPLY CONCEPTS**
2. **DATA ANALYSIS: ANALYZE AND INTERPRET DATA**
3. **SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION: ANALYZE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH STUDENIRES**

**Are there any prerequisites for AP Psych?** There are no prerequisites for AP Psych. However, this is a college level course, and a strong background in reading and vocabulary is beneficial

What kinds of questions are on the AP Psych Exam? The AP Psychology Exam includes both a 70 minute multiple - choice section and a 50 minute free response section that has 2 parts.

## QUESTIONS PSYCHOLOGY ANSWERS?

WHY DO PEOPLE  
CONFORM TO  
OTHERS?

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HOW DOES OUR  
BRAIN IMPACT OUR  
ACTIONS?

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WHAT IS A  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
DISORDER?

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### More information

- **Difficulty:** College course content, but in a high school setting (including lots of support and guidance)
- **Average Workload:** regular reading assignments of 5-15 pages, more emphasis on frq's, quizzes and tests, fewer written homework assignments, approximately 3-5 hours per week of out of class time needed for the typical AP psych student.
- **Typical Schedule:** Most students taking the course also take mainly Advanced-level courses, especially in English.
- **GPA Impact:** Weighted GPA average of 10 points (on average, NOT on the grade).