

Advanced Placement Psychology
Course Syllabus
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1. Course Expectations

This course is designed to help you achieve two main objectives: to pass the Advanced Placement Examination; and to become a more highly developed thinker, writer, and speaker. Advanced placement courses are designed to challenge high school students in the same way in which they will be challenged in college level courses. By passing the AP examination, you may qualify for college credit. As a result, this class will be taught at a relatively high intellectual level. You will not be challenged to just do more work; rather you will be challenged to think in ways you do not usually think. In order to be successful on the AP examination and in a college course, you need to be able to draw logical conclusions and make cohesive arguments using a broad source of information. It is not enough to simply know the material, you must understand how it relates to everything else you have learned.

2. Reading

You will be required to do 30 –50 pages of reading per week on average. Reading assignments are not optional. You must complete the assigned reading by the date required. You will find that you will learn more when you have read before the lecture or activity on the subject. Your retention and comprehension will improve as well. Be prepared to spend extra time for rereading if necessary. You may find it helpful to take notes on all of your reading. **Quizzes will be given for all reading!!** Any reading notes may be used on the quizzes.

3. Research

The ability to do independent and critical research is essential for success in today's world. As a result, you will be required to do much independent and group research. You are encouraged to use the Internet, the school library, the Murrieta Library, or any other means at your disposal. Never expect to be given the answers to anything. Learn to find them for yourselves.

4. Thinking Skills

The development of critical thinking skills is an important component of this course. Much of what we do in this class will be aimed at development of critical thinking skills. Active participation in discussions are expected.

5. Writing Skills

The ability to write is also a key component to this course. The writing of Free Response Questions (or FRQ's) is different than typical essay writing. We will practice this throughout the year, but the style is much more straightforward and requires that you know the material. You cannot write your way around lack of knowledge on a FRQ!

6. Late Work/Absences

There will be **no late work accepted** in this class. You have chosen to take a course that is challenging and expects more of you. Turning in work late does not demonstrate the commitment to excellence that is necessary to be successful in this class, so it will simply not be allowed.

Any assignments missed due to an **excused** absence will be due at a date agreed upon by the student and teacher. If your absence is not excused the day you return, you will not be allowed to make up the assignment. Any tests or quizzes missed due to an absence must be made up on the day you return.

7. Projects/Presentations/Papers

We will be doing group and individual projects, presentations, and essays/research papers in this class. These assignments are typically worth substantial points. These assignments must be turned in on the date they are due. Any student missing for any part of group project will have a minimum of one grade deduction on their assignment grade.

8. Quizzes and Tests

You will know in advance when all quizzes and tests are. As such, I expect 100% attendance for tests. If you are absent on the day of a test you will be required to take a different make-up test in the morning before school or during Pride Period.

9. Materials

The following are recommended:

- One 2” 3-ring binder (or you may use on large 3” binder for all of your classes if you wish, as long as you have a separate section for AP Psychology)
- Dedicated college-ruled spiral notebook for class notes
- Blue or black ink pens
- Highlighters for notes
- College Ruled Notebook Paper

10. Requests for work for future absences

It is solely your responsibility to obtain any work that will be missed due to a planned absence (this includes extracurricular activities). Because of the ever-changing needs of a course such as this, I cannot give one or more weeks’ worth of work in advance. It is still your responsibility to communicate with me and complete any work by the assigned due date. You may also need to communicate with your group and take care of any responsibilities you may have with them prior to leaving

11. Office Hours

I will hold office hours on an as needed basis. I am most available in the morning before school (7:00-7:45am) and at lunch. I am available by appointment after school.

12. The Advanced Placement Examination

The AP Psychology Examination is 2 hours long. The examination consists of a 70-minute, 100-question multiple-choice section and a 50-minute free-response section (essay). The free-response section consists of two mandatory questions and accounts for 1/3 of the exam score. The exam this year is Monday, May 2nd afternoon session.

13. Course Summary Outline

- I. History and Approaches
- II. Research Methods
- III. Biological Bases of Behavior
- IV. Sensation and Perception
- V. States of Consciousness
- VI. Learning
- VII. Cognition
- VIII. Motivation and Emotion
- IX. Developmental Psychology
- X. Personality
- XI. Testing and Individual Differences
- XII. Abnormal Psychology
- XIII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- XIV. Social Psychology

14. Integrity and the AP Course

As an Advanced Placement student, you represent the benchmark for academic achievement and conduct. You are expected to act as such. Any student who plagiarizes, lies, cheats, or otherwise misuses the academic environment or other Advanced Placement students or their work will be expelled from the AP Psychology program. Moreover, anyone who observes this conduct and does not report it will be considered for the same.

Cheating Defined: *Gaining or attempting to gain an unfair advantage on any assignment or test.*