

Advanced Placement Psychology- Ashland High School 2019-2020
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AP Psychology is certainly amongst the most rewarding courses offered at the high school. It's almost inconceivable that students walk away from it without a deep engagement with the coursework and an even deeper understanding of themselves. It is certainly a challenging course; however, if you've got the interest and an equal drive to work hard, you'll thrive. As with all AP classes, this one is hard, but the rewards will be many – a more thorough understanding of human behavior, an expanded view of cognition and emotion, a new lens from which to view the world, and the opportunity imagine yourself amongst a broader, human context.

Course Description:

Advanced Placement Psychology is a full-year, college-level class designed for the highly motivated student. Data, phenomena, and psychological theories will be closely examined within the framework of psychology's major subfields. While units of study are listed below, it's important to note that you can expect me to cover only about sixty percent of the content in class. Additionally, you will be expected to enroll for the AP test in May.

As a teacher, I rely primarily on discussions, in-class activities, research, simulations and projects; however, please expect the occasional lecture. Your role in the course will be to analyze current issues related to psychology, engage in discussions, conduct research and experimentation, and produce cogent writing.

Students are required to have a David Myers, *Psychology* textbook. Obviously, it will be easier if you have the same edition as the rest of the class; however, older editions can be purchased on-line for literally a few bucks. Page numbers will be different and chapters may be arranged differently, but the content will be the same.

Textbook and Materials:

- Finebery, Amy. *Myers' Psychology for AP*. New York, NY: BFW/Worth Publishers, 2011
 - I will be using the 9th edition of David G Myers's, *Psychology for AP*. Again, other editions are compatible; however, if you choose to use a different edition, it will be up to you to accommodate any differences between textbooks.
- *Barrons AP Psychology Review Book* (used copies for \$5)
 - This book will be an excellent study resource for unit tests, the final exam, and the AP test itself.

The College Board has structured the AP Psychology test into two sections: 70 minutes to complete 100 multiple-choice questions and 50 minutes to complete two free response questions. The multiple-choice section accounts for two-thirds of the grade and the free response section counts for the remaining third. The major areas covered with the percentage of questions for each section are as follows:

- Methods, Approaches, History: 7-9%
- Biological Bases of Behavior: 8 – 10%
- Sensation and Perception: 7-9%
- States of Consciousness: 2-4%
- Learning and Memory: 7-9%
- Cognition: 7-9%
- Motivation and Emotion: 7-9%
- Developmental Psychology: 7-9%
- Personality: 7-9%
- Testing and Individual Differences: 5-7%
- Abnormal Psychology: 7-9%
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders: 6-8%
- Social Psychology: 7-9%

Summer Work: Purchase the textbook by July 1 and bring it to the first day of class. The two assignments listed below are due on the first day of school. Combined, they will count as your first test grade.

1. (50pts) Unit 2 “Research Methods & Thinking Critically with Psychological Science” (Modules 2 and 3: pgs 14-37) and Unit 10 “Personality” (Modules 45-47 pgs 557-590)
 - a. Outline
 - i. Go to the following link watch the video on color coded notes before beginning this step. Outlines must follow this format.
 - ii. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxpNS_mC97M
 1. Alternatively, google “AP Psychology – Awesome Color Coded Notes!”
 - iii. Each completed outline will be approximately four written pages (20pts per chapter)
 - b. Key Terms
 - i. Identify the key terms (in bold-face) at the end of both of these chapters on 3x5 note cards. On one side of the card put the term; on the opposite side put the definition and how it could be applied to a psychological context. Be clear, detailed and concise. Hole punch the corner of each card and bind them together using a key ring, string, or whatever else is on hand. (5pts per chapter)
2. (45pts) “TED TALKS”

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in short, powerful talks in 18 minutes or less. After filtering through the psychology section, I’ve identified several talks that will surely be of interest.

 - a. Choose three to watch. After listening to each, compose a one-page summary including the name of the lecture, a summary of the topic and your opinion on the topic. (15pts per TED Talk)
 - i. Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil
 - ii. Martin Seligman: New Era of Positive Psychology
 - iii. Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable Is Your Memory
 - iv. Susan Cain: Power of Introverts
 - v. Keith Barry: Brain Magic
 - vi. Tony Robbins: Why We Do What We Do
 - vii. Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key To Success - Grit
 - viii. Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are
 - ix. Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness
 - x. Pamela Meyer: How To Spot A Liar
 - xi. Ben Ambridge - 10 Myths about Psychology Debunked
 - xii. Shawn Achor: The Happy Secret To Better Work

Given the number of students interested in taking psychology and the limited number of openings, some interested students may not be enrolled. If summer work is not complete by the first day of school, you will not be permitted to remain in the course in favor of someone who is on the waiting list. I will be available sporadically by email. If you have a question, please do write; however, there may be a significant delay in my reply. The takeaway here is to not wait until the last minute to discover you are going to run into problems.

The absolute genius of this course is that it is always personally relevant. Stick with it and work hard and you’ll walk away from the experience with a sense of accomplishment and deeper connection to the world. Really...

Best,

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