
AP PSYCHOLOGY

Franklin High School

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of AP® Psychology is 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. A variety of activities, demonstrations, and projects will be provided to meet this goal of instructing scientific and empirical approaches.

Specific Objectives

- Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology.
- They will be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
- Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills.

Texts

Myers, David G. Psychology, 10th ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2014

Schedule of Topics

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior	A. Physiological Techniques (e.g., imagining, surgical) B. Neuroanatomy C. Functional Organization of Nervous System D. Neural Transmission E. Endocrine System F. Genetics
Unit 2: Sensation & Perception	A. Thresholds B. Sensory Mechanisms C. Sensory Adaptation D. Attention E. Perceptual Processes

Unit 3: States of Consciousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Sleep and Dreaming B. Hypnosis C. Psychoactive Drug Effects
Unit 4: Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Encoding B. Storage C. Retrieval D. Forgetting
Unit 5: Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Classical Conditioning B. Operant Conditioning C. Cognitive Processes in Learning D. Biological Factors E. Social Learning (Observational Learning)
Unit 6: Thinking and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Language B. Thinking C. Problem Solving and Creativity
Unit 7: Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Standardization and Norms B. Reliability and Validity C. Types of Tests D. Ethics and Standards E. Human Diversity
Unit 8: Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Biological Bases B. Theories of Motivation C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain D. Social Motives
Unit 9: Emotion & Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Embodied Emotion B. Expressed Emotion C. Experienced D. Stress and Health
Unit 10: Personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Personality Theories and Approaches B. Assessment Techniques C. Self-Concept/Self-Esteem D. Growth and Adjustment

Unit 11: Social Psychology	A. Attribution B. Conformity and Obedience C. Attitudes and Attitude Change D. Social Behavior
Unit 12: Psychological Disorders	A. Definitions of Abnormality B. Theories of Psychopathology C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology D. Anxiety Disorders E. Mood Disorders F. Suicide and Prevention G. Schizophrenic Disorders
Unit 13: Therapies	A. Approaches B. Mode of Therapy C. Systems D. Biomedical
Unit 14: Research Methods	A. Experimental, Correlation, and Clinical Research C. Measures of Central Tendency D. Statistical Significance

Methods of Instruction

- Lecture/Discussion
- Application and Demonstration
- In-class timed writes

Method of Evaluation

Unit Tests and In-class Timed Writes	80% of grade
Reading Assessments	20% of grade

Attendance

You MUST be in class as much as possible. With a rotating A-B schedule I will only see you 2 or 3 times a week. We will process and practice applying an enormous amount of material in a 90 minute AP class. If you are late you miss an application and evaluation session. If you miss class, you miss targeted discussion, critical-thinking activities, and the thinking skills I give students to help process their studies effectively.
