

Advanced Placement Psychology

Syllabus 2023-2024

Subject Area: Social Studies

Instructor: Giselle Devillier, Plano TX (Giselle.devillier@pisd.edu)

Introduction to Psychology

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the field of psychology, promote critical thinking skills, develop scientific writing skills and prepare students for the AP Psychology exam.

Resources:

- Myers, David G. and Dewall, C. Nathan. *Psychology*, 11th ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2015.
- Unit Lesson Plans from TOPSS
- Scoring guidelines and samples of previous year's questions from the College Board.

Expectations:

There are several requirements that all AP classes have in common: high expectations of the students, a high level of rigor, and the expectation that students will engage in self-learning outside the classroom. There are many topics on the AP Exam in May. We will learn a great deal in class with rigorous learning activities. However, as in college, it will be necessary for all students to complete work and research topics at home that we may not discuss in class.

Important:

Psychology is a course that includes a number of sensitive topics that you may feel uncomfortable talking or hearing about in class. I will discuss with you the nature of the movies and documentaries I am going to show you so that you can decide if you are comfortable with the topic. Please communicate with me if there is a topic we are covering is difficult for you. We will develop a plan of action together.

Classroom Materials:

Notebook/Paper for taking Notes

Notecards for Flashcards

Blue or Black Pen – Required to write Free Response Questions

Grading Criteria:

- Major Grade Category (60% of quarter grade)
 - *Unit Tests* – include multiple choice and timed writings
 - *Major Projects*
- Minor Grade Category (40% of quarter grade)
 - *Notecards* – Vocabulary notecards are a required part of the course
 - *Activities* – in-class and outside assignments such as short group projects, “mini-experiments,” etc.
- Semester Exam (20% of semester grade) – a replica of the AP national exam format

Course Outline: Skills

The AP Psychology skills describe what a student should be able to do while exploring course concepts. These skills form the basis of tasks on the AP Exam.

- Concept Understanding – Students will define, explain, and apply concepts, behavior, theories, and perspectives.
- Data Analysis – Students will analyze and interpret quantitative data.
- Scientific Investigation – Students will analyze psychological research studies.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit #: Name	% Tested on AP Exam
Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology	10% - 14%
Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior	8% - 10%
Unit 3: Sensation and Perception	6% - 8%
Unit 4: Learning	7% - 9%
Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology	13% - 17%
Unit 6: Developmental Psychology	7% - 9%
Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Personality	11% - 15%
Unit 8: Clinical Psychology	12% - 16%
Unit 9: Social Psychology	8% - 10%

Make-up Work:

It is entirely the responsibility of the student to acquire missed notes and assignments. Make-up work must be turned in and missed tests must be taken ***within a week following the absence*** (if the absence is excused). Grades are assigned zeroes (“Z” in the grade book) until they are completed; if a week passes without work being completed, the grade becomes permanent (“0” in the grade book). **No late work is accepted in this class.**
AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE = ZERO FOR MISSED WORK!

Tutoring:

Tutoring & Make-Up Sessions – Tuesdays 8:00, Both Lunches, and 4:15.

AP Exam (May 9, 2024):

The 120-minute exam consists of two sections:

Section I: 70 minutes (66.67% of score) – 100 multiple choice questions

Section II: 50 minutes (33.33% of score) – 2 essays

Additional Resources:

- AP Classroom – You will be required to use the join code and join the AP Psychology AP Classroom
- Google Classroom: Check the class bulletin board for the code for your class.
- To view your grades online (Parent Viewer) - <https://parentviewer.pisd.edu/default.asp>
- Textbook Website – webdesk.pisd.edu
- American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org/>
- Psychology Today: <http://www.psychologytoday.com>
- Scientific American Mind: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/sciammind/>