

Advanced Placement Psychology

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Room A123
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Who are you? Why are you who you are? Is it mostly your nature, or the environment, that shapes you? How can behavior be manipulated? Can intelligence and creativity be measured accurately? How can mental health be improved? What is psychology and how does it explore these questions?

Advanced Placement (A.P.) Psychology at Plano Senior High School is a one-semester college-level course that addresses such questions as it surveys the field of psychology, from research into human nature to the application of its findings in treatment. The course will also prepare students to take the College Board's national exam for psychology which could potentially earn you college credit in behavioral/social science.

THEMATIC UNITS:

- Unit 1: **METHODS**—*What is psychology and how is it used?*—(Prologue, Ch. 1, 13)
The Field of Psychology, Research in Behavioral Science, Social Applications
- Unit 2: **THE MIND**—*How does the brain function and achieve consciousness?*—(Ch. 2, 3, 6)
Brain & Neurology, Sensation & Perception, States of Consciousness
- Unit 3: **THE PERSON**—*How does an individual develop across the lifespan?*—(Ch. 4, 5, 14)
Nature & Nurture, Lifespan Development, Personality
- Unit 4: **LEARNING**—*How are behaviors conditioned & thoughts processed?*— (Ch. 7, 11, 8, 9, 10)
Learning & Behavioral Conditioning, Motivation, Memory, Thinking, Intelligence Testing
- Unit 5: **MENTAL HEALTH**—*How is mental illness diagnosed & treated?*—(Ch. 12, 15, 16)
Stress & Emotions, Mental Disorders & Treatment, Semester Review

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Major Grade Category (75% of average)
 - *Unit Tests* (x2) – timed multiple-choice and occasional timed writings, similar to national exam
 - *Unit Portfolios* (x1) – folders containing notes, outlines, worksheets, writings, etc.
 - *Optional Exam* (replacement grade) – cumulative exam offered at the end of each grading period, replaces lowest grade
- Minor Grade Category (25% of average)
 - *Chapter Outlines* (x1) – hand-written notes on each chapter, essential for quiz & test preparation
 - *Reading Quizzes* (x2) – multi-choice assessments of your understanding using outlines
 - *Activities* – assignments applying the learned concepts, such as reflective writings, experiments, etc.
- Final Exam (20% of semester average) – a replica of the AP National Exam: 70 minutes for 100 multiple-choice questions, 50 minutes for 2 free-response essays
- AP National Exam – offered in May for those wanting to earn college credit; most colleges require a score of 3 or 4 out of a possible 5 to grant credit. (Check your potential colleges for requirement – <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>)

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 **by the second THURSDAY following the absence** (if the absence is excused). Assignments are assigned zeroes (“Z” in the gradebook) until they are completed; if the second week passes without their being completed, the grade becomes permanent (“0” in the gradebook). **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED for minor-grade assignments; major-grade assignments that are one day late may be accepted for a 70-point maximum.**

TUTORING: Tutoring sessions are available upon request, or on most **THURSDAY** mornings and afternoons, or during lunch. Also, feel free to email any time (see email address above).

GOOGLE CLASSROOM ACCESS: Our source for all your AP Psychology calendars, lecture notes, powerpoint slides, activities, review material:

1. Login to a *campus* computer with username: [firstname.lastname.1] (If it's your first time to login, you may need to use a “dummy” password – Just ask.)
2. Then change your password, and it must have 1 capital, 1 symbol, and 1 number. (Sometimes you may have to keep using the “dummy” pass word until your new one is processed.)
3. Using Google *Chrome* (NOT Explorer), go to: **classroom.google.com**
4. Login with your school email: [firstname.lastname.1@mypisd.net]

5. Click on “+” at top right, and choose “Join class.”
6. Enter our class code: **4iivvtb**

(Once you’ve gone through these steps, you will be able to access the site on or off campus. There is also a “Google Classroom” app you can download for mobile devices.)

TEXTBOOK: The primary text we will read is the online eBook titled: *Psychology (11th edition)*, by David G Myers.

Option 1: eBook version of *Psychology (11th ed.)* by David Myers:

- Go to clever.pisd.edu and log in with your PISD username and password.
- Click on “Bookshelf” – Our book has the brown-orange cover with mountain climbers.

Option 2: Download a PDF version of the 9th edition:

- Go to our Google Classroom page (see above).
- In “General Information” there is a link to a PDF version of the 9th edition.
- Note: This older edition of the book is mostly the same, but chapters are in different order.

Option 3: Hardback version of the textbook:

- Purchase a used one for *cheap!* at www.amazon.com – search “myers” and “psychology.”
- Scroll down and find a used 9th edition or later (Note: We use the standard college edition titled *Psychology*, and NOT *Psychology for AP*.)
- Or, you may check out a book from our class set one week at-a-time if any are available.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- View your grades online (Parent Portal): [https://parentviewer.pisd.edu/\(S\(2aozz1dwbgcn3txxqysxcyz\)\)/Login.aspx](https://parentviewer.pisd.edu/(S(2aozz1dwbgcn3txxqysxcyz))/Login.aspx)
- Course Description (College Board – administrators of the AP Exam):
Overview: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-course-overviews/ap-psychology-course-overview.pdf>
Full Course Description: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-psychology-course-description-2014-15.pdf>
- To determine what your AP exam score must be for your potential college/university to award you credit:
<http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>
- AP Psychology Review Books
AP Psychology Crash Course - http://www.amazon.com/Psychology-Course-Online-Advanced-Placement-ebook/dp/B00SN5H40U/ref=dp_kinw_strp_1
Five Steps to a 5 - http://www.amazon.com/Psychology-Edition-Advanced-Placement-Examinations/dp/0071839097/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1432050357&sr=1-1
Barron’s Review - http://www.amazon.com/Barrons-Psychology-Allyson-Weseley-Ed-D/dp/143800270X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1432050750&sr=1-1&keywords=ap+psychology+barron%27s
- Other Excellent Internet Resources:
<http://quizlet.com/subject/psychology/> <http://www.appsychology.com/>
<http://sparkcharts.sparknotes.com/psychology/psychology/> <http://www.alleydog.com/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **What will this course do for me?** This course is ABOUT you! It will enrich your interpersonal relationships and teach you how to think more critically and be a better student. It will also prepare you for the CollegeBoard AP exam in May, which could earn you college credit.
- **What if I’ve never taken an AP course before?** AP Psychology is the first Advanced Placement course many students take. It serves as a sort of “gateway” AP course because it is only one semester, you learn cognitive skills for being a better student, and many realize they can be successful at college-level work and go on to take other AP courses here at PSHS.
- **Is there a prerequisite?** No. But, because it is only one semester long, some students choose to take on-level Psychology first, or Honors Sociology in addition to it—both of which provide additional preparation for the AP Psychology exam.
- **What kind of workload is there?** We typically read and outline one chapter per week. We use a college-level textbook that warrants more attention than the texts of on-level courses. Taking outline notes over the chapters is essential and will likely involve more than one sitting; so it’s not advisable to wait until the night before they’re due to start reading. Only occasionally are there additional assignments—some research and writing, self-reflection activities, and observing the behavior of others.
- **How can I be successful in this class?** The most successful AP Psych students tend to do these 3 things: (1) self-motivate, (2) aim high, and (3) self-discipline. They are self-motivated in that they don’t need someone else to tell them to do the work; they aim high in that they strive for more than merely passing; and they are self-disciplined in that they know how to stay organized and manage their study time rather than procrastinating.