

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY
GRADE 12

(Students may take the Psychology course first, but that is certainly not required or necessary for success in the AP course)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A.P. Psychology provides an in-depth study of the behavioral science of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The course is designed to prepare students to succeed on the Advanced Placement exam in May. With a sufficiently high score on this test, a student may earn credit at many colleges and universities. Students will also learn psychological principles that have a practical application in their lives.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

- UNIT I - Introducing Psychology/Approaches and History
- UNIT II - Research in Psychology
- UNIT III - Biological Bases of Behavior
- UNIT III - Sensation and Perception
- UNIT IV - States of Consciousness
- UNIT V - Learning
- UNIT VI - Cognition
- UNIT VII - Motivation and Emotion
- UNIT VIII - Developmental Psychology
- UNIT IX - Personality
- UNIT X - Mental Abilities
- UNIT XI - Social Psychology
- UNIT XII - Psychological Disorders
- UNIT XIII - Treatment and Therapy

UNIT XIV - Health, Stress and Coping

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1.	Successfully prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam in psychology.
2.	Develop a better understanding of the scientific nature of psychology (18B).
3.	Develop an understanding of various approaches to the study of behavior and mental processes. (18C)
4.	Develop an awareness of career opportunities in the field of psychology.
5.	Practice and apply critical thinking skills in the context of psychology (18B).
6.	Gain skill in analyzing data critically (18B).
7.	Develop a tolerance for diverse opinions and experiences (18C).

MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

1.	Participate in active demonstrations of psychological principles, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experiencing the opponent-process theory of color vision;• determining one's just noticeable difference;• testing the facial feedback theory of emotion; and• simulating the diathesis-stress model of mental disorders.
2.	Discuss topics such as nature-nurture, gender roles, and the nature of intelligence.
3.	Assignments may include a personality analysis; a dream interpretation paper; and field study research.

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

Bernstein, Douglas A. <i>Psychology, 5th ed.</i> Houghton Mifflin, 2000. (adopted 2001)

(11/10/03)
(07/08/99)
(05/09/95)