



Course Description

International Baccalaureate

Course Information

Name	Level (SL/ HL)	Both Years Mandatory (HL only)	Frequency (Years/ Dates)
IB Psychology	SL	No	11 th & 12 th grade—no pre-requisites

General Information

Description

Psychology is most appropriately defined as the systematic study of behavior and experience. Its historical development, however, has witnessed several difficulties in arriving at a precise clarification of its subject matter and methodological focus. The current trend is towards a balance of quantitative and qualitative methods. Without denying its historical links with other fields of inquiry, modern psychology occupies an important position as a meeting ground for both the natural and the social sciences. This course approaches the study of psychology as follows:

Levels of Analysis – The IB Psychology curriculum is broken into levels of analysis, each providing insight to human and non-human animal behavior. For this class you will study three: Biological Perspective, Cognitive Perspective, and Social/Cultural Perspective. There is an additional “optional” topic required which may be one of the following: Abnormal Psychology, Health Psychology, Developmental Psychology, or Psychology of Relationships.

Research Methodology – In this course you will learn about and question psychological research. As you learn about the psychological levels of analysis, you will gain understanding of the different types of research methods, ethics, and the American Psychology Association guidelines for research, as well as quantitative research methods.

Expectations and Goals

Students should expect to complete assigned readings, including psychological studies, participate in class discussions and presentations, as well as take notes. Students will be required to complete the IB Psychology Internal Assessment, where they replicate and conduct a simple experiment. The experiment is conducted within a group, then individually, the student will submit their report. This report does count towards the IB Psychology exam if the student is a course candidate.

Learning Outcomes¹

- Develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behavior.
- Apply an understanding of the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behavior to at least one applied area of study (such as Abnormal Psychology, Developmental Psychology, or Health Psychology)
- Understand the diverse methods of inquiry
- Understand the importance of ethical practice in psychological research and observe ethical practice in their own inquiries.
- Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in all psychological inquiry and discussion
- Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied to address real-world problems and promote positive change.

Materials

Binder with dividers and notepaper.

Required Text

Oxford IB Diploma Programme Psychology Course Companion, 2ed.

Course Outline

Topic/ Unit	Topic	Year	Exercises
Unit 1	Introduction to Psychology	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions
Unit 2	Introduction to Psychological Research	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions
Unit 3	Cognitive Level of Analysis	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions & Presentation
Unit 4	Biological Level of Analysis	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions & Presentation
Unit 5	Socio-Cultural Level of Analysis	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions & Presentation
Unit 6	Required Option Unit TBA	1	Readings, Notes, Discussions

Assessment Schedule

Date	Assessment
Year 1	Internal Assessment—October through January
Year 1	IB Exam – May (student choice)

¹ Taken from the IB Course Guide