



Grade Level: 11-12

Content: AP Psychology

Year: 2021-2022

**Course Description/Rationale**

The AP Psychology course is designed 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. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will receive a weighted grade for this class and will have the opportunity to take the AP test in the spring. (1 HS credit)

Name of Unit	Time Frame	Essential Learning Target	Standard(s)
<p>Scientific Foundations of Psychology</p>	<p>3 weeks</p>	<p>Students outline psychology’s roots in philosophy and natural science and describe and explain the emergence of experimental psychology.</p> <p>Students recognize the diversity of psychological theories.</p> <p>Students identify major subfields and career opportunities in psychology.</p> <p>Students identify research strategies used in the field of psychology.</p>	<p>1.1 Introducing Psychology 1.2 Research Methods in Psychology 1.3 Defining Psychological Science: The Experimental Method 1.4 Selecting a Research Method 1.5 Statistical Analysis in Psychology 1.6 Ethical Guidelines in Psychology</p>
<p>Biological Basis of Behavior</p>	<p>3-4 weeks</p>	<p>Students identify the structure and explain the functions of the neuron.</p> <p>Students identify the location and function of the major regions of the brain.</p> <p>Students classify the major divisions and subdivisions of the nervous system.</p> <p>Students identify how drugs influence the brain and nervous system.</p>	<p>2.1 Interaction of Heredity and Environment 2.2 The Endocrine System 2.3 Overview of the Nervous System and the Neuron 2.4 Neural Firing 2.5 Influence of</p>

		<p>Students explain the nature states of consciousness that includes characteristics of sleep, theories used to explain sleep and dreams, the phenomena of hypnosis and categories and effects of psychoactive drugs.</p>	<p>Drugs on Neural Firing 2.6 The Brain 2.7 Tools for Examining Brain Structure and Function 2.8 The Adaptable Brain 2.9 Sleep and Dreaming</p>
Sensation and Perception	3-4 weeks	<p>Students describe basic concepts explaining the capabilities and limitations of sensory processes.</p> <p>Students identify the physiological features common across all sensory systems such as receptors, pathways to the brain and the point of transduction.</p> <p>Students explain real-life examples of the concepts of threshold, adaptation, and constancy.</p>	<p>3.1 Principles of Sensation 3.2 Principles of Perception 3.3 Visual Anatomy 3.4 Visual Perception 3.5 Auditory Sensation and Perception 3.6 Chemical Senses 3.7 Body Senses</p>
Learning	2-3 weeks	<p>Students define the characteristics of learning including the principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, cognitive learning and the roles of biology and culture in determining learning.</p> <p>Students explain the components of cognitive learning.</p> <p>Students identify biological contributions to learning.</p>	<p>4.1 Introduction to Learning 4.2 Classical Conditioning 4.3 Operant Conditioning 4.4 Social and Cognitive Factors in Learning</p>
Cognitive Psychology	3 weeks	<p>Students describe human memory in terms of encoding, sensory, short-term (working) and long-term memory storage systems, retrieval, biological basis, methods of improving memory and memory construction.</p> <p>Students identify the brain structures most important to memory including the hippocampus.</p> <p>Students describe conditions such as Alzheimer's and stroke that impair memory</p> <p>Students differentiate between types of long-term memory including episodic, semantic, implicit, explicit and procedural.</p>	<p>5.1 Introduction to Memory 5.2 Encoding 5.3 Storing 5.4 Retrieving 5.5 Forgetting and Memory Distortion 5.6 Biological Bases of Memory 5.7 Introduction to Thinking and Problem Solving</p>

		<p>Students define the basic elements of thought, obstacles in problem solving and decisionmaking, structural features of language, theories of language acquisition and links between thinking and language.</p>	<p>5.8 Biases and Errors in Thinking 5.9 Introduction to Intelligence 5.10 Psychometric Principles and Intelligence Testing 5.11 Components of Language and Language Acquisition</p>
Developmental Psychology	3 weeks	<p>Students describe key theories and general research in human development.</p> <p>Students discuss research on the capabilities of infants and young children, explaining how processes such as imprinting, style of parenting, role of cultural practices, and role of caregivers influence cognitive and social development.</p> <p>Students examine how social roles, ethnicity, race, age, religion, gender, social class, ability and disability and sexual orientation impact the nature of change across the life span.</p> <p>Students describe physical, social and cognitive changes from the prenatal period through the life span including similarities and differences in peer relationships and cultural impact in both peer and adult groupings.</p>	<p>6.1 The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood 6.2 Social Development in Childhood 6.3 Cognitive Development in Childhood 6.4 Adolescent Development 6.5 Adulthood and Aging 6.6 Moral Development 6.7 Gender and Sexual Orientation</p>
Motivation, Emotion, and Personality	3 weeks	<p>Students define and differentiate between the major theories of human motivation.</p> <p>Students describe theories of emotion, such as James-Lange, Cannon- Bard, or cognitive theories.</p> <p>Students explain the relationship between emotion and behavior.</p> <p>Students identify the sources of stress.</p> <p>Students identify and explain cognitive and behavioral strategies to deal with stress and promote health.</p> <p>Students identify important contributions to the understanding of personality</p> <p>Students describe personality assessments used in</p>	<p>7.1 Theories of Motivation 7.2 Specific Topics in Motivation 7.3 Theories of Emotion 7.4 Stress and Coping 7.5 Introduction to Personality 7.6 Psychoanalytic Theories of Personality 7.7 Behaviorism and Social Cognitive</p>

		professional settings.	Theories of Personality 7.8 Humanistic Theories of Personality 7.9 Trait Theories of Personality 7.10 Measuring Personality
Clinical Psychology	4 weeks	<p>Students identify historical approaches toward the characteristics of psychological disorders, methods used in categorizing, explaining, and treating psychological disorders.</p> <p>Students identify prominent methods used to treat individuals with disorders, practitioners who implement treatment, and legal and ethical challenges involved in treating psychological disorders.</p> <p>Students explain the influence of ethics and professional practice in the treatment of psychological illness.</p> <p>Students explain and are able to identify the various broad classifications of disorders in the The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.</p>	8.1 Introduction to Psychological Disorders 8.2 Psychological Perspectives and Etiology of Disorders 8.3 Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders 8.4 Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders 8.5 Trauma- and StressorRelated, Dissociative, and Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders 8.6 Feeding and Eating, Substance and Addictive, and Personality Disorders 8.7 Introduction to Treatment of Psychological Disorders 8.8 Psychological Perspectives and Treatment of Disorders 8.9 Treatment of Disorders from

			the Biological Perspective 8.10 Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments of Disorders
Social Psychology	4 weeks	<p>Students demonstrate an understanding of social judgment and attitudes, social and cultural categories and social influence and relationships.</p> <p>Students demonstrate an understanding of person perception, including the role of social schemas, physical attractiveness, and cultural socialization.</p> <p>Students analyze the impact of social structure on intergroup relations and offer examples from American and Japanese business models, the impact of group polarization, the power of a superordinate goal, and the processes of conflict resolution.</p> <p>Students will explain aggression from several theoretical orientations: biomedical, psychoanalytic/dynamic, and social learning.</p>	9.1 Attribution Theory and Person Perception 9.2 Attitude Formation and Attitude Change 9.3 Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience 9.4 Group Influences on Behavior and Mental Processes 9.5 Bias, Prejudice, and Discrimination 9.6 Altruism and Aggression 9.7 Interpersonal Attraction