



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Course Profile: Psychology AP

<u>Department</u>	Social Studies
<u>Course Name</u>	Advanced Placement Psychology
<u>Course Length</u>	1 Year
<u>High School Credits</u>	1 Credit Social Studies Elective
<u>Description</u>	The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas
<u>Target/eligible students</u>	11th & 12 th Grade students
<u>State Learning Standards and Links</u>	<p>National Standards for High School Psychology (American Psychological Association) https://www.apa.org/education-career/k12/psychology-curricula.pdf</p> <p>PSYCHOLOGY CONTENT: IDENTIFY BASIC CONCEPTS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Define and explain basic psychological concepts. 1.2. Interpret research findings related to psychological concepts. 1.3. Apply psychological principles to personal growth and other aspects of everyday life. <p>SCIENTIFIC THINKING: SOLVE PROBLEMS USING PSYCHOLOGICAL METHODS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Describe the advantages and limitations of research strategies. 2.2. Evaluate, design, or conduct psychological research. 2.3. Draw logical and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence. 2.4. Examine how psychological science can be used to counter unsubstantiated statements, opinions, or beliefs. <p>KEY THEMES: PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF PSYCHOLOGY'S INTEGRATIVE THEMES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Psychological science relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data develop. B. Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior while recognizing individual differences. C. Psychological, biological, social, and cultural factors influence behavior and mental processes. D. Psychology values diversity, promotes equity, and fosters inclusion in pursuit of a more just society. E. Our perceptions and biases filter our experiences of the world through an imperfect personal lens. F. Applying psychological principles can change our lives, organizations, and communities in positive ways. G. Ethical principles guide psychology research and practice.
<u>Primary texts and materials</u>	<p>https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-psychology-course-and-exam-description.pdf?course=ap-psychology</p> <p>DeWall, C. N., & Myers, D. G. (2016). <i>Psychology in everyday life</i> (4th ed.). Worth.</p> <p>Myers, D. A. (2018). <i>Myers' psychology for AP</i> (3rd ed.). Worth.</p>

Scope/Sequence	*Standards/ Themes	Key Ideas, Term, and Concepts	
<u>Unit 1:</u> <u>Introduction and Psychological Science</u>	<p>The field of psychology has changed and developed over time. This unit will explore the history of psychology, the use of perspectives to evaluate and understand various perspectives in psychology and an examination of subfields. In addition, students will evaluate several research methods and understand their importance in making the study of psychology more scientific. Students will also be introduced to the American Psychological Association’s ethical guidelines for research with human subjects.</p>	1.1 - Introduction to 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. 37
<u>Unit 2:</u> <u>Biological Bases of Behavior</u>	<p>The structures of human biological systems and their functions influence our behavior and mental processes. Some psychologists study behaviors and mental processes from a biological perspective. This includes an examination of the influence that the interaction between human biology and our environment has on behavior and mental processes. This is a recurring topic throughout the course that will be used to explain many psychological phenomena. The biological perspective also provides insight into the causes of and treatments for psychological disorders. There is a complex interaction between a person’s biology and their behavior and mental processes. Heredity and environment play a role, as do variations in a person’s consciousness</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 The Influence of Drugs on Neural Firing 2.6 The Brain 2.7 Tools for Examining the Brain Structure and Function 2.8 The Adaptable Brain 2.9 Sleeping and Dreaming	p. 48
<u>Unit 3:</u> <u>Sensation and Perception</u>	<p>Psychologists study sensation and perception to explain how and why externally gathered sensations and perceptions impact behaviors and mental processes. Using input from several anatomical structures, the sensations we perceive process and interpret information about the environment around us and our place within it. This results in perceptions that influence how we think and behave. In this way, sensation and perception provide a bridge between the biological and cognitive perspectives, offering aspects of both for explaining how we think and behave.</p>	3.1 Principles of Sensation 3.2 Principles of Perception 3.3 Visual Anatomy 3.4 Visual Perception 3.5 Auditory Sensation & Perception 3.6 Chemical Senses 3.7 Body Senses	p. 65
<u>Unit 4:</u> <u>Learning</u>	<p>Some psychologists focus their study on how humans and other animals learn and how some experiences can lead to changes in behavior and mental processes. Because the process of learning requires both physiological and psychological processes to work together, the two preceding units provide the foundation for this unit. Many psychologists who study learning focus on observable behaviors and how those behaviors can be changed or reinforced. Other learning psychologists study how the individual’s</p>	4.1 Introduction to Learning 4.2 Classical Conditioning 4.3 Operant Conditioning 4.4 Social Learning & Cognitive Factors	p. 76

	observations of other peoples' behaviors influence changes in that individual's mental processes and resulting behaviors.		
<u>Unit 5:</u> <u>Cognitive Psychology</u>	In this unit, knowledge surrounding sensation, perception, and learning provides the foundation for an understanding of cognition. Cognitive psychologists focus their research on the complex nature of the brain, particularly the areas of memory processes and intelligence and the influence of mental processes on behavior. Understanding how this information is gathered and processed gives insight into how we make sense of and perceive the world. Some cognitive psychologists attempt to answer how and why cognitive processes fail despite (or because of) the complexity of our biological structures. Teachers can offer students opportunities to provide their own explanations for these phenomena. Other psychologists study intelligence and the reasons for individual differences. This cognitive perspective offers one way to understand how our thinking impacts our behavior, which can in turn provide insight into psychological disorders and their treatment.	5.1 Introduction to Memory 5.2 Encoding 5.3 Storing 5.4 Retrieving 5.5 Forgetting & Memory Distortion 5.6 Biological Bases of Memory 5.7 Introduction to Thinking & Problem Solving 5.8 Biases and Errors in Thinking 5.9 Introduction to Intelligence 5.10 Psychometric Principles of Intelligence 5.11 Components of Language and Language Acquisition	P 86
<u>Unit 6:</u> <u>Developmental Psychology</u>	Developmental psychology encompasses the study of the behavior of organisms from conception to death. In this unit, students will learn to examine the processes that contribute to behavioral change throughout a person's life. The major areas of emphasis in the course include prenatal development, motor development, socialization, cognitive development, adolescence, and adulthood. Developmental psychologists seek to understand how changes in our biology and social situations over a lifespan influence our behaviors and mental processes. Development can be studied from several different perspectives, including biological or cognitive perspectives. Developmental psychologists may focus on one or more developmental periods or the entire course of a lifespan, using cross-sectional and longitudinal research methods.	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 104
<u>Unit 7:</u> <u>Motivation, Emotion and Personality</u>	Psychologists use theory to categorize and explain different personalities. These explanations have been influenced by the various branches of psychology. Some psychologists study what motivates us and/or our emotional responses to experiences to understand our individual differences. Other psychologists seek to understand personality, including why different personalities exist, how they are developed, and if and how they change. Originating from the psychodynamic perspective, the study of	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 7.6 Behaviorism and Cognitive Theories of Personality 7.7 Humanistic Theories of Personality 7.8 Trait Theories of Personality 7.9 Measuring Personality	P 116

	<p>personality involves consideration of behavior and mental processes and how they interact to produce an individual's personality. A full explanation of personality also involves incorporating humanistic and social-cognitive perspectives from earlier units.</p>		
<p><u>Unit 8:</u> <u>Clinical Psychology</u></p>	<p>Psychologists who study psychological disorders, along with practitioners who treat disorders, often utilize a particular theoretical perspective. Each perspective attempts to explain the origin of a disorder and/or determine the best method for treatment. These explanations and treatments build on the history, theories, and perspectives introduced in the first two units as well as on cognitive psychology in particular. Through observing behavior and engaging in discussion that illuminates a client's thought process, psychologists gather information and draw conclusions. For some psychologists, a single perspective cannot fully explain a disorder. This leads them to more integrated perspectives to understand and treat psychological disorders.</p>	<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, Obsessive Compulsive related disorders 8.5 Trauma and Stressor-related, 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 Treatment of Disorders from a Biological Perspective 8.9 Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments and Disorders</p>	<p>P 132</p>
<p><u>Unit 9:</u> <u>Social Psychology</u></p>	<p>In this final unit, psychological concepts and theoretical perspectives are pulled together from throughout the course. Social psychology is the study of how other people and groups influence behavior and mental processes as well as how behavior and mental processes influence our experiences in social situations. Social psychology also involves the study of how our perceptions of social situations impact how we interact with others and how others interact with us. Social psychologists may focus on one aspect of social situations or interactions and may do so from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including other integrative perspectives.</p>	<p>9.1 Attribution and Person Perception 9.2 Attitude Formation & 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</p>	<p>P 148</p>