

AP Psychology (3320) Course Overview Curriculum Document

Course Description

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 sub-fields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Credits

1

Prerequisites

None

Board Approved

May 2005

Revised

June 2023

Required Assessments

District common summative assessments

Textbooks/Resources

Myers' Psychology for the AP Course 3rd Edition ISBN: 9781319070502

Course Essential Understandings

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will understand :

- Scientific Foundations of Psychology
 - Research methods in Psychology
 - Statistical analysis of Psychology
 - Ethical guidelines of Psychology
- Biological Bases of Behavior
 - Interaction of heredity and environment
 - The Endocrine system
 - Neural firing
 - The brain
 - Sleep and dreaming
- Sensation and Perception
 - Principles of sensation and perception
 - Visual anatomy
 - Visual perception
 - Auditory sensation and perception
 - chemical senses
 - body senses
- Learning
 - Introduction to learning
 - Classical conditioning
 - Operant conditioning
 - Social and cognitive factors in learning
- Cognitive Psychology
 - Introduction to memory
 - Encoding, storing, retrieving
 - Forgetting and memory distortion
 - Thinking and problem solving
 - Biases and errors in thinking
 - Introduction to intelligence
 - Psychometric principles and intelligence testing
 - Components of language and language acquisition
- Developmental Psychology
 - The lifespan and physical development in childhood
 - Social development in childhood
 - Cognitive development in childhood
 - Adolescent development
 - Adulthood and aging
 - Moral development
 - Gender and sexual orientation
- Motivation, emotion and personality
 - Theories of motivation
 - Theories of emotion
 - Stress and coping
 - Introduction to personality
 - Psychoanalytic theories of personality
 - Behaviorism and social cognitive theories of personality
 - Humanistic theories of personality
- Clinical Psychology
 - Psychological disorders
 - Psychological perspectives and etiology of disorders
 - Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum disorders
 - Bipolar, depressive, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive and related disorders
 - Trauma-and stressor related, dissociative and somatic symptom and related disorders
 - feeding and eating, substance and addictive and personality disorders
 - Treatment of psychological disorders
 - Psychological perspectives and treatment of disorders
 - Treatment of disorders from the biological perspective
 - Evaluating strengths, weaknesses and empirical support for treatments of disorders
- Social Psychology
 - Attribution theory and person perception
 - Attitude formation and attitude change
 - Conformity and compliance and obedience
 - Group influences on behavioral and mental processes
 - Bias, prejudice and discrimination
 - altruism and aggression
 - Interpersonal attraction

Course Essential Questions

How is our behavior and development explained through the scientific and biological foundations of psychology?

How are mental processes and behavior explained in theory and practice?

Unit Overviews				
Unit Name	Unit Description	Unit Essential Question	Instructional Standards	Assessed Standards
Unit 1 : Scientific and Biological Foundations of Psychology	Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. From the Scientific lens, this unit examines the foundations of psychology, contemporary perspectives on psychology, and how psychological research is conducted. As scientists, psychologists collect data and make observations about the ways in which humans and animals behave and think in order to understand behavior and mental processes. Psychologists use a variety of research methods and designs to conduct their research. These tools help them develop psychological theories about behavior and mental processes. To ensure that their results are valid and reliable, psychologists' research must adhere to strict ethical and procedural guidelines. From the Biological lens, this unit focuses on structures and functions of the brain, including neurons, the endocrine system and how sleep and drugs affect the functioning of the brain. Finally, this unit will look at how Sensation and Perception interact with one another to give us an understanding of the world around us.	What are the scientific and biological foundations of Psychology?	SC1: Define Major Concepts SC2: Applying Concepts SC3: Communicate Learning CC1: Psychological Content	AP Psych Rubrics
Unit 2 - Developmental Foundations of our Mental Processes	This unit focuses on the development of our Mental processes through the lens of learning, cognition and overall human development. In the Learning portion of this unit, students will see how automatic processes, observational learning and rewards and consequences impact our behavior. In Cognition, psychologists focus on the complex nature of the brain related to memory, intelligence and influences of mental processes on our behavior. Finally, in Development, students will see how development affects all aspects of the lifespan from gestation to death. There will be a focus on the development of cognitive abilities, morality, psychosocial awareness and relationships with those around us.	What influences the development of my mental processes?	SC1: Define Major Concepts SC2: Applying Concepts SC3: Communicate Learning CC1: Psychological Content	AP Psych Rubrics
Unit 3 - Behavioral Foundations	This unit focuses on the physiological and psychological impact motivations, emotions, stress and health play on our behavior through a study of theories, hunger, achievement and health. In Clinical Psychology, students will look at several psychological disorders, their causes, symptoms, and overall treatments. Students will also see the history of mental health in this country and some of the changes that have been made to view psychological health the same way we view physical health. Finally, students will see how people and groups influence our behavior and mental processes as well as how we individually influence the behavior and mental processes of others too. We will look at interactions between groups, what influences those interactions and how those interactions can affect future behavior of that group.	What influences the development of my behavior?	SC1: Define Major Concepts SC2: Applying Concepts SC3: Communicate Learning CC1: Psychological Content	AP Psych Rubrics