

Course Title:	AP Psychology
Grade(s):	10-12

Course Description
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. The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course usually taken during the first college year. Students who take this college-level course will be prepared and required to take the Advanced Placement examination for which they may receive credits or advanced standing at the college level.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
<i>Myers' Psychology for the AP Course</i> (Fourth Edition)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 0: An Introduction to Psychological Science Practices	Unit 0 introduces students to the major psychological perspectives and the research methods used to study behavior and mental processes. Key topics include the history of psychology, experimental and correlational research, and the statistical tools used to interpret data.	3 weeks (September)
Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior	Unit 1 examines how biological systems shape thoughts, emotions, and behavior. Students learn how neurons communicate, how different brain structures support mental processes, and how sleep, sensation, and other physiological mechanisms influence human functioning.	4-5 weeks (September - October)
Unit 2: Cognition	Unit 2 explores the core cognitive processes involved in perception, thinking,	5 weeks

	judgment, and problem solving. Students apply research-based memory strategies and investigate how psychologists define, measure, and interpret intelligence and achievement.	(November-December)
Unit 3: Development and Learning	Unit 3 focuses on human development across the lifespan, including key physical, cognitive, and social changes. Students analyze research methods used in developmental psychology and study major learning processes, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning, to understand how behavior changes over time.	5 weeks (December - January)
Unit 4: Social Psychology, Personality, Motivation, and Emotion	In Unit 4, students look at some of the main factors that shape human behavior. Social psychologists emphasize the role of the situation in affecting behavior, while the study of personality focuses more on thoughts and behaviors that are shaped over time and that become enduring aspects of people. The study of motivation explores what drives people to do what they do, while the topic of emotion examines how people experience and express their feelings. Some of the most well-known and influential psychological research studies and theories are described and discussed in this unit.	7-8 weeks (February - March)
Unit 5: Mental and Physical Health	Unit 5 addresses topics from well-being to disorders, from diagnosis to treatments and prevention. It begins by introducing the topic of stress and its link to health and explores relevant factors in stress reduction and ways to increase happiness. The unit then shifts to psychological disorders and explores the criteria for defining psychological disorders and identifying people who experience them. It details several of the major psychological disorders, their symptomology, and the ways in which different perspectives explain them. The unit also describes various treatments that mental health professionals have developed to support individuals whose behavior and thinking cause distress and disruption in their own lives.	7-8 weeks (March - May)