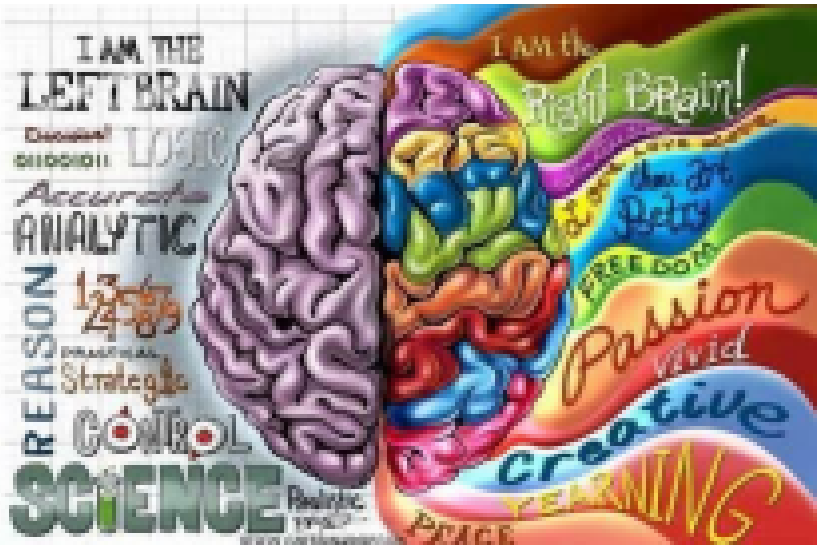
AP Psychology 2026-2027
Course Information & Summer Assignment

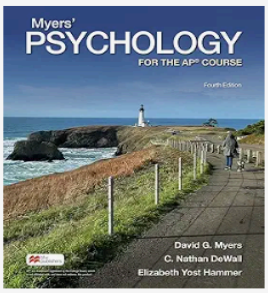


Welcome to AP Psychology!

"The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas." College Board®

Course Resources & Requirements

- **Textbook:** *Myer's Psychology: For the AP Course, 4th Edition*. Students will need to purchase, so to have access to this college-level resource, which was published in 2024, meeting all print and electronic curricular requirements.



Myers' Psychology for the AP® Course
by David Myers , C. Nathan DeWall , et al. | Mar 1, 2024
Options: 2 formats
4.3 ★★★★½ (32)
Hardcover
$167.99 List: $209.98
prime Overnight
FREE delivery Overnight 4 AM - 8 AM
Arrives before Father's Day
Add to cart
More Buying Choices
$109.75 (13+ used & new offers)
Kindle
$102.99 Print List Price: $209.98
Available instantly

The AP Psychology Curriculum is structured around Five units of study:

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior

- Heredity and Environment
- Overview of the Nervous System
- The Neuron and Neural Firing
- Brain Structure and Function
- Consciousness and Sleep
- Sensation

Unit 2: Cognition

- Perception
- Thinking, Problem-Solving, Judgments, and Decision-Making
- Memory (Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval)
- Intelligence, Testing, Achievement, and Language Development

Unit 3: Developmental and Learning

- Developmental Psychology & Lifespan Approaches
- Physical and Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan
- Gender and Sexual Orientation
- Social-Emotional Development Across the Lifespan
- Classical and Operant Conditioning
- Social, Cognitive, and Neural Factors in Learning

Unit 4: Social and Personality

- Attribution Theory and Person Perception
- Attitude Formation and Attitude Change
- Psychology of Social Situations (Group Dynamics, Conformity, and Culture)
- Personality (Psychoanalytic, Humanistic, Social-Cognitive, and Trait perspectives)
- Motivation and Emotion

Unit 5: Physical and Mental Health

- Health Psychology & Positive Psychology
- Psychological Disorders (Diagnosis and Clinical Presentation)
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders (Therapeutic Orientations)

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Expectations

In order to be successful in this course and be well prepared for the AP Psychology Exam, you will need to be **diligent and organized**. This course will require hard work inside and outside of the classroom. That being said, do not be intimidated! Being successful in this class will be a learning experience that we will work through together. If you want to succeed you will and I will provide all of the tools and support you need in order to do so.

Summer Work

I am ecstatic that you have decided to join this class and have chosen to challenge yourself with the fascinating world of psychology. I am certain that you will find this course worthwhile and personally relevant. Although it is the summer, there is work to be done. Please note, AP Psychology is an elective, college-level course with higher student expectations than most courses taken by high school students. With that being said, it is imperative that we get a jump start on the AP Psychology curriculum. Your summer assignment consists of THREE mini assignments. Assignments will serve a specific purpose that will assist you throughout the school year and aid in your preparations for the AP Exam in May 2027.

On Thursday, August 27th , all work is due no later than 8:30 am submitted in person when you walk into the classroom and a multiple-choice test and free response writing assessment will be given in class on the same day.

- **Assignments** – The five assignments include different sources: articles, podcasts, terms, and videos. Read, listen, respond, and/or watch each source and answer the questions for each assignment. Please send me an OnCampus Message or email if one of the links is not working.

- **Format** – Please answer for each of the three assignments a well-developed response (complete sentences, well thought out, and in your own words). You should have a heading for each set "Assignment #1 Questions". Your answers should be **handwritten** in blue/black ink on one side of your notebook paper. Typed responses will NOT be accepted. Keep in the mind the definitions for the following words as you answer the questions:

    - **Identify** – Name examples of something, identify elements of a map, etc.
    - **Explain** – Provide a brief reason of who/what/where/when/why/how people/places/ situations are/is/were/will be affected.
    - **Describe** – Write the characteristics of what is being asked.
    - **Discuss** – Give factual information about the topic.

- **Time Management** – It is highly recommended that you break this assignment into smaller pieces and work on it over time. Time Management is a very important skill to learn and utilize and it will be crucial for your success in this class!

- **Academic Honesty –** It is an expectation that you turn in work that was completed by you and not someone else OR any ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. All answers must be written in your own words. Failure to be academically honest will result in no credit earned for the Summer Assignment and/or being dropped from the class.

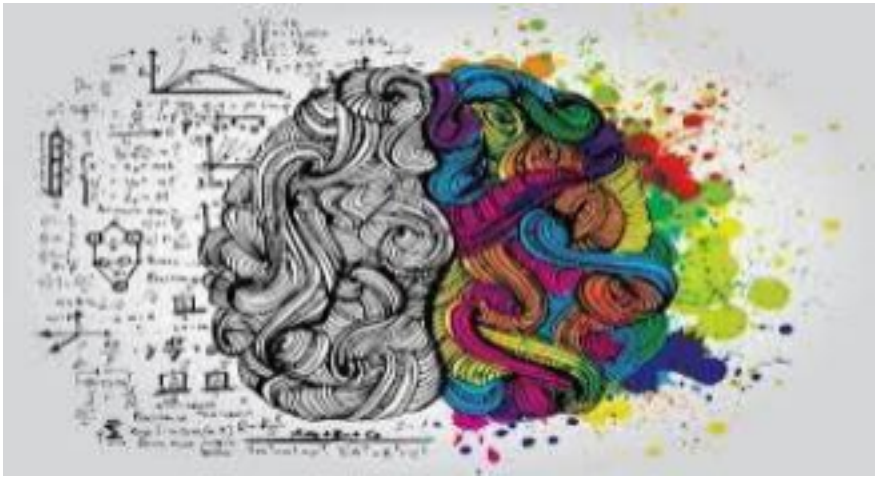
- **Due Date** – This assignment is due **NO LATER THAN 8:30 AM THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 27, 2026**. Failure to complete and turn in the assignment will indicate a desire from you to be dropped from the class. Expect to participate in class discussions about the topics from the articles during the first week of school.

- **TEST** - Our first Multiple-Choice/FRQ Test on Thursday, August 27th will cover material from Unit Zero.

- **NO GROUP WORK is PERMITTED** - Please follow the format and requirements listed in completing your work. Read the instructions carefully.

- **Questions?** If you have any questions or concerns this summer as you are working on the assignment, you are welcome to email me at lacherj@gilbertschool.org. Always include your first and last name in the subject line of your email as well as 'APPsych' to indicate this class.

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Assignment #1 – "Case Study Analysis"
Use the following link to complete the assignment below: *Forty Studies that Changed Psychology Summer Work*

Forty Studies That Changed Psychology

A.P. Psychology Summer Assignment #1
Mr. Lacher

Below contains a list of some of the important studies that we will be discussing further throughout this upcoming year. Based on your **last name** you will do the following:

Last Name: A-B 1. One brain or two? 2. See aggression...Do aggression.	**Last Name: C-E** 1. Thoughts out of tune. 2. Obey at any cost?	**Last Name: F-H** 1. Learning to be depressed. 2. The power of conformity.
Last Name: I-M 1. To help or not to help. 2. Discovering Love.	**Last Name: N-R** 1. It's not just about salivating dogs! 2. Who's crazy here, anyway?	**Last Name: S-Z** 1. Little Emotional Albert. 2. Thanks for the memories.

Assignment #2 - "Unit Zero" *Using the Myer's 4th Edition provided, print and complete the Reading Guide.*
Myers Psychology for the AP Course 4e Unit Zero Preview.pdf
AP Psychology Unit 0: Reading Guide

Assignment #3 - "LETS TALK ABOUT IT"

Choose 5 of the 10 TED Talks listed below (you can find them on YouTube) - After listening to these lectures, you will provide a thorough, one paragraph summary OF EACH LECTURE consisting of at least 10 - 12 sentences. Feel free to incorporate your opinion of the talk and discuss terms you were interested in, as well as terms you were unsure about. Please be sure to TITLE each paragraph with the name of the Speaker /Lecture.

Philip Zimbardo: The Psychology of Evil
Martin Seligman: New Era of Positive Psychology
Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable is Your Memory
Susan Cain: Power of Introverts
Keith Barry: Brain Magic
Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key to Success - Grit
Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are
Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness
Pamela Meyer: How to Spot a Liar
Ben Ambridge - 10 Myths About Psychology Debunked