

AP Psychology Syllabus

Mr. LaBansky

E-Mail: glabansky@maustonschools.org

Phone: 847-4410 ext. 4413

Course Description

AP Psychology provides students the equivalency of an introductory psychology college course. This course is taught as it would be at the college level. The purpose of this course reflects the intent stated in the *AP Psychology Course Description*, "to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental process of human beings and other animals." Students should leave the course able to think critically and with the ability to use the scientific method to evaluate information. In addition, students should be prepared and feel confident in their ability to be successful on the AP Psychology Exam in May of current school year. Finally, and maybe most importantly, students will have fun learning about an amazing class, psychology.

Equity Statement

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. The College Board encourages the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved. I will make every effort to ensure AP Psychology reflects the diversity of our student population.

Four Basic Assumptions

Because you chose to take this course, I am making four basic assumptions about you:

- 1) You are self-motivated to complete all homework assignments.
- 2) You are willing to push yourself to become a better student.
- 3) You can work independently.
- 4) You are ready to take on the rigor of a college-level course.

Course Outline (84 Days of Instruction)

Intro to the Course-1 Day

- A. Course Expectations/Syllabus
- B. Intro to AP Course Load

I. Scientific Foundations of Psychology (10-14%) 10 Days

- A. Introducing Psychology
- B. Research Methods in Psychology
- C. The Experimental Method
- D. Selecting a Research Method
- E. Statistical Analysis in Psychology
- F. Ethical Guidelines in Psychology

II. Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%) 9 Days

- A. Interactions of Heredity and Environment
- B. The Endocrine System
- C. Overview of the Nervous System and the Neuron
- D. Neural Firing
- E. Influence of Drugs on Neural Firing
- F. The Brain
- G. Tools for Examining Brain Structures and Function
- H. The Adaptable Brain
- I. Sleep and Dreaming

III. Sensation and Perception (6-8%) 7 Days

- A. Principals of Sensation
- B. Principals of Perception
- C. Visual Anatomy
- D. Visual Perception
- E. Auditory Sensation and Perception
- F. Chemical Senses
- G. Body Senses

IV. Learning (7-9%) 7 Days

- A. Introduction to Learning
- B. Classical Conditioning
- C. Operant Conditioning
- D. Social and Cognitive Factors in Learning

V. Cognitive Psychology (13-17%) 12 Days

- A. Introduction to Memory
- B. Encoding
- C. Storing
- D. Retrieving
- E. Forgetting and Memory Distortion
- F. Biological Bases of Memory
- G. Introduction to Thinking and Problem Solving
- H. Biases and Errors in Thinking
- I. Introduction to Intelligence
- J. Psychometric Principals and Intelligence Testing
- K. Components of Language and Language Acquisition

VI. Developmental Psychology (7-9%) 7 Days

- A. The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood
- B. Social Development in Childhood
- C. Cognitive Development in Childhood
- D. Adolescent Development
- E. Adulthood and Aging
- F. Moral Development
- G. Gender and Sexual Orientation

VII. Motivation, Emotion, and Personality (11-15%) 9 Days

- A. Theories of Motivation
- B. Specific Topics in Motivation
- C. Theories of Emotion
- D. Stress and Coping
- E. Introduction to Personality
- F. Psychoanalytic Theories of Personality
- G. Behaviorism and Social Cognitive Theories of Personality
- H. Humanistic Theories of Personality
- I. Trait Theories of Personality
- J. Measuring Personality

VIII. Clinical Psychology (12-16%) 10 Days

- A. Introduction to Psychological Disorders
- B. Psychological Perspectives and Etiology of Disorders
- C. Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders
- D. Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
- E. Trauma and Stressor Related, Dissociative and Somatic System and Related Disorders
- F. Feeding and Eating, Substance and Addictive, and Personality Disorders
- G. Introduction to Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- H. Psychological Perspectives and Treatment of Disorders
- I. Treatment of Disorders from the Biological Perspective
- J. Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments of Disorders

IX. Social Psychology (8-10%) 8 Days

- A. Attribution Theory and Person Perception
- B. Attitude Formation and Attitude Change
- C. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience
- D. Group Influences on Behavior and Mental Processes
- E. Bias, Prejudice, and Discrimination
- F. Altruism and Aggression
- G. Interpersonal Attraction

Review-2 Days

- A. Recap Course Content
- B. Prepare for the Final Exam

Final Exam-2 Days

- A. Complete Final Exam
- B. Preparation for the College Board AP Exam

AP Exam

The AP exam will be administered on May 2, 2023. The regular exam fee is \$97.

Textbook

Myers, David G. *Myers' Psychology for AP*. 3rd ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2021.

Other Supplies Needed

You will also need a Chromebook, notebook or loose-leaf paper, folder and/or binder, agenda, and a blue or black pen for class. You will bring these items with you every day.

Classroom Conduct

There are three general rules that will be followed in this classroom. Students will be respectful, responsible, and be willing to learn. This classroom will be an environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Employability Skills

Each week, I will ask you to evaluate your employability skills. Your evaluation is based on your attitude, attentiveness, work ethic, and participation in class.

Attendance

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. My lesson plans are posted on Google Classroom. Assignments and tests missed during an absence must be made up in a timely manner at a time agreed upon by the student and the teacher.

Tardiness

Be ready to learn when class begins. Please refer to the student handbook regarding tardy policies.

Grading

This course has a weighted grading scale. The breakdown is as follows:

Formative (Homework, Quizzes, Daily Work)—30%

Summative (Assessments/Major Projects)—70%

The standard school grading scale will be used:

93-100 (A); 90-92.99 (A-); 87-89.99 (B+); 83-86.99 (B); 80-82.99 (B-); 77-79.99 (C+); 73-76.99 (C); 70-72.99 (C-); 67-69.99 (D+); 63-66.99 (D); 60-62.99 (D-); 0-59.99 (F).

Homework Policy

Homework is designed to be practice to assist students in their learning. Be sure to complete homework on time so you will not fall behind. The more effort you put forth the more you will gain from class.

Homework must be turned in by the regularly scheduled summative assessment for the opportunity for full credit.

Assessment Retake Policy

Students have the opportunity to retake all summative assessments except final exams.

- Students must make a legitimate attempt on the original assessment before being eligible for a retake.
- Retakes are a comparable assessment on skills not mastered from the original assessment. An entire retake can be given if a student does very poorly on the first assessment or parts can be retaken if the full assessment is not needed. The teacher will make this determination.
- Students can take one retake per summative assessment. The most recent assessment results will be reported. In a unique or unusual circumstance (i.e. a lower assessment score) an additional retake opportunity may be provided at the teacher's discretion.
- I will prepare students for retakes by offering re-teaching opportunities during Pride Time. Quizlet may also be utilized. Students will also be expected to complete any missing work for the unit or redo some of the formative work for additional practice as part of the reteaching process.
- Retakes must be completed in a timely manner as indicated by the teacher, but no later than the next summative assessment, unless the teacher gives permission otherwise due to unforeseen circumstances.

Disciplinary Action

The student handbook will be enforced. Please refer to it for a detailed explanation.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating will not be tolerated and you will earn a zero. There are possibly some additional consequences if you are subject to the extra-curricular code of conduct as well. Violations of academic dishonesty include:

- copying homework
- looking on another's test or quiz
- using other secretive methods of giving answers on a test or quiz
- taking information from another source that is not properly cited such as "copying and pasting" papers or sections of papers from the internet, publications, or other students
- illegally obtaining any part of a test to use for oneself or to give/sell to others
- doing home or other assignments for another student

Food and Drink

Students will be allowed to bring drinks and food into the classroom as long as this privilege is not abused and students clean up after themselves.