

Introduction to the Course:

The year-long AP Psychology course engages students in the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Primarily, the course will explore the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields of psychology (consciousness, learning, personality, cognition, etc.). Students will assess the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic and sociocultural.

Objectives:

1. Students will prepare to take and pass the AP Psychology Exam.
2. Students will study the major theories and concepts of Psychology.
3. Students will understand and be able to apply the basic concepts of psychological research.
4. Students will learn about psychology careers and the education required as well as the ethical standards governing psychologists.
5. Understand the relationship between biology and behavior.
6. Students will develop an interest in behavior and human experience.
7. Student will develop critical thinking skills.
8. Students will build their reading, writing and discussion skills.

Organization:

Textbook readings will be assigned on a daily basis and students are responsible for all concepts & vocabulary associated with these readings by creating a journal of terms, concepts and people. Quizzes will be given as formative assessment of this material on a weekly basis. Tests will be given on each unit and free-response questions will be graded according to AP scoring guidelines. Classes will be used to enhance student understanding of unit concepts through a combination of answering student questions, demonstration, group work, worksheets to supplement readings, projects and video. *The week before the AP exam is reserved for review of the materials covered.*

Topics will be covered in the following order:

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
History & Approaches	Motivation & Emotion
Research Methods	Cognition
Learning	Sensation & Perception
Developmental Psychology	Abnormal Psychology
States of Consciousness	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
Personality	Social Psychology
Testing & Individual Differences	Review for AP test
Biological Basis of Behavior	

Textbook:

Zimbardo, Philip G., Johnson, Robert L., Weber, Ann L., Gruber, Craig W. *Psychology AP*Edition*. Allyn & Bacon, 2007.

Supplemental Texts (optional student purchase):

***It is highly recommended that students purchase an AP study guide for review and preparation. The 5 Steps to a 5 guide by Maitland will be available in the bookroom for purchase. However, any study guide will assist you in preparing for the AP exam.*

Maitland, Laura. *5 Steps to a 5, AP Psychology, 2008-2009 Edition*, McGraw-Hill, 2007.

McEntarffer, Robert. *Barron's AP Psychology 2009, Edition 3*, Barron's Educational Series, 2008.

Assignments, Tests, Quizzes & Projects (Assessment)

Assignments are due on the date specified unless an excused absence is registered in the office, or the student discusses their situation with me *prior* to the date due. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED UNLESS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE OF DUE DATE.**

Tests will be a combination of objective matching and multiple choice questions as well as free-response prompts (taken from previous AP exams). Each unit will be tested at completion. Tests may or may not be cumulative depending on the specific unit. A final, cumulative exam will be given (not to be confused with the AP exam). *If absent for a scheduled test, you MUST take the test during the next scheduled access time you are present at school unless you talk to the instructor prior to the scheduled date. If a test is not made up at this time, a '0' will be entered.*

Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis to provide students with an opportunity to develop test-taking skills in preparation for the AP exam and as formative assessment for classroom curriculum. *If absent for a scheduled or unscheduled quiz, you MUST take the quiz during the next scheduled access time you are present at school unless you talk to the instructor prior to the scheduled date. If a test is not made up at this time, a '0' will be entered.*

Some of the units will include "major" **projects** completed either by individual students or groups to assist them in understanding complex and/or large concepts. These projects may include (but are not limited to):

- Historical figure and perspective report
- Brain anatomy cartoon drawing
- Research study (social psychology unit)
- Memory mnemonics project
- Personality theories group presentation
- Individual personality project (testing validity)
- Abnormal psychology group/individual presentation
- Case study & journal article evaluation sheets (3 per semester)

Grading:

Grading will be weighted with the following scale:

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|-------------------------|-----|--------------|
| • Tests | 30% | A = 90%-100% |
| • Weekly Quizzes | 20% | B = 80%-89% |
| • Vocabulary Notes | 10% | C = 70%-79% |
| • Daily Participation & | | D = 60%-69% |
| • Classroom Assignments | 20% | F = <60% |
| • Projects | 20% | |

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- ✓ **Respect your classmates and teacher - their ideas, comments, mannerisms, etc.**
- ✓ Listen when others are speaking. **Do not carry on *private* conversations** during the lectures, guest presentations or work sessions.
- ✓ Attend class and **be on time.**

- ✓ **Participate!!!** -- Whether that participation is active or passive - just participate!!!!
- ✓ Be responsible for your own actions and behaviors
- ✓ Classroom materials are for the use of all students – please use them, then put them back!
- ✓ **All work assigned is expected to be your own work.** Please **do not attempt to plagiarize.** When working in or outside of class, it is expected that you work alone unless it is specifically stated by the teacher that you may work with someone else on the assignment. *If, at any time, I feel that you are copying or collaborating on work, I will give both parties a zero for the assignment. (No questions asked).*

CELL PHONE/MULTIMEDIA POLICY:

When in the classroom, all cell phones and multimedia devices are to be “invisible”. Turn off phones, and put away all devices. If I see a phone, Ipod, etc., I will confiscate it until the end of my teaching day (2:30) when you can pick it up. Under **no circumstances** will phones be used (texting, music, photos, etc.) during class. During “solo” work in the class and test/quizzes, you may use a personal music device (not cell phone) when given permission to do so.

"OFFICE HOURS":

I am usually at my desk every morning by 7:15. I am available during zero hour on access days (Monday, Tuesday & Friday). If I am not at my desk, please leave me a note telling me you dropped by (name/date/time/reason) so that I can try to find you! In addition, you can email me at janiev@spokaneschools.org.

TARDY & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please examine the school-wide policies given to you at the beginning of the year. I will adhere to those policies as closely as possible. Furthermore, as a responsible senior, you need to be on time for class. Remember that this is an elective class – you chose to be here. If you are chronically tardy, it disrupts the class. Every year there is a waiting list to get into Psychology. If, at the end of the semester, you have demonstrated that you are an individual who is not capable of getting to class on time or missing an extended amount of class time, I will strongly suggest that you drop the class so that someone who wants to be here can take it. If you are **absent for more than 2 class periods in a row**, please email me for assignments during or before the absence.

Please note that **class participation points will be awarded on a daily basis**. If you are not there, you ***CANNOT make up these points!*** It is essential that you come to class – however, a certain number of absences are unavoidable. I have taken this into consideration when calculating the participation grade. A combination of 5 tardies and absences will not effect your participation grade greatly. However, understand that a combination of tardies and absences above 5 WILL effect your final grade in the class!

I hope you enjoy this class. I do everything possible to make it a fun, pleasant and enjoyable environment for you to learn in. As seniors, I attempt to give you as much freedom as possible in choices of assignments and class management. (In other words, I treat you as young adults.) In return, all I ask is that you try to the best of your personal abilities to perform at the highest quality you can, to learn about psychology and to respect the freedoms and choices given to you without taking advantage of a good thing!!!!

Let’s have a great year!!!!

Janie VandeBerg
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