

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. (Taken from the Advanced Placement Course Description in Psychology by the College Board)

Course Objectives

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results and evaluate the validity of research reports.
4. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They should be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.
6. Students will build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.
7. Students will learn about psychology as a profession, and become aware of the educational requirements which must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

Expectations

1. Annoying or rude behavior such as chewing gum, putting on make up, writing notes, working on other subject material, texting, or sleeping will not be tolerated.
2. Come prepared each day with necessary materials.
3. Cheating and/or plagiarism are grave offenses and will be handled immediately by appropriate school authorities. You are encouraged not to tolerate anyone you know is cheating and can notify me of any incident (anonymously if you wish) so I can deal with it.
4. You are tardy to class if you are not in your seat when the bell rings. District tardy policy will be followed.
5. The goal of this course is to prepare students to pass the National AP Exam at the end of the year. If you pass it you'll probably receive college credit worth a one semester class (Psych 101). Different colleges may have different policies regarding A.P. scores. If you choose not to take the exam, you'll be required to take and be graded on a comprehensive exam that I develop. But everyone will study together in the days leading up to the National A.P. Psychology Exam. Students will be expected to take their final exam the week of the AP exam – dates will be announced closer to May.

Questions to Think About Before We Begin

1. Why are you taking this class? Do you want to learn about psychology? Are you ready for a “college level” class? Are you serious about preparing for and taking the AP Exam in May? Would the regular psychology class better suit your goals?
2. What are your priorities? Are academics near the top of the list, or are you more concerned with athletics, social life, a part-time job, entertainment, and so on?

- How much time will you need to devote to this class? This will depend on your own strengths and weaknesses. A rule of thumb suggested by many colleges is to spend two to three hours working outside of class for every hour you spend in class. Since most college courses meet three hours a week, this translates to about six to nine out of class hours per week. You will need to take academic responsibility for this class. Are you willing to make this commitment?
- Are you a strong reader? In terms of course assignments, nothing will occupy more of your time than reading and studying the text. Research has shown that the strongest prediction of success in high school AP classes is reading ability. If you are a good reader, you have a distinct advantage. If you are not a strong reader, know that it is going to require extra time and effort to compensate for that weakness.
- What is your motivation level? Your level of motivation is much more important than your ability level. If you want to succeed in AP Psychology and you are willing to put in the necessary effort, you will succeed. Attitude, study skills, determination, and discipline count for more than intelligence toward your success in this class.

After considering the above, if you have any questions, concerns, etc. as to whether AP Psychology is the course for you, please see me ASAP, preferably today!

Grading

Grades are based on a point scale. All activities, tests, homework, labs, etc. receive a certain number of points. Progress reports and semester grades are based on adding the student's total number of points and dividing by the total points possible to get a percentage. The letter grade is determined by putting the percentage on the scale below.

98% - 100%	A+	88% - 89%	B+	78% - 79%	C+	68% - 69%	D+	59% and below
93% - 97%	A	83% - 87%	B	73% - 77%	C	63% - 67%	D	is an F
90% - 92%	A-	80% - 82%	B-	70% - 72%	C-	60% - 62%	D	

Since the grades are recorded on a computer, you will be regularly informed of your grade throughout the year through AERIES. Because this is an Advanced Placement course, you will probably find it more difficult to earn top grades in this class compared to other classes you have taken.

Notebooks

Each student is to have a 5 subject spiral notebook and bring it to class each day. Notebooks may be collected at any point in the year so please keep them as neat as possible. Along with reading the textbook, taking notes is the primary way you will learn psychology. The points below may help you in your note taking.

- Take complete, dated class notes.
- Your notes should be more than just what items are listed on the blackboard or screen.
- Put the notes in your own words. Don't write down something you don't understand without looking it up or asking about it.
- Leave some blank spaces on each page to make additions and/or clarifications.
- Review your class notes each day while they are fresh in your mind. Expand them, clarify them, and add examples so they will make sense when you go back to study them later. Note anything that doesn't make sense and ask questions in class the following day.
- Before class look over the notes from the preceding class. This is especially important if a topic is presented over multiple days.
- If you are absent on class note days, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from other students.

Other materials

Each student will also need a pack or two of lined notecards (ex. 3x5) that will be use with various assignment during the semester and a glue stick to paste things in the spiral notebook.

Assignments

All written work for the class, i.e. study guides, reports, lab reports, data sheets, etc., should be word processed or written legibly. Anything written which is unable to be read will be marked wrong. Written work should be an attempt to communicate one's thoughts, ideas or feelings. Sloppy work, one word answers, and poor spelling/grammar fail in their goal of communicating.

Late papers. In almost all cases students are given more than adequate time, a minimum of 48 hours, to finish assignments so there should be few possible reasons for late papers. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you know you are going to be absent on the day an assignment is due please make an effort to hand in the assignment early.

Absentee papers. If you are absent on a due date the assignment is due upon your return. Exceptions will be made for extended absences.

Attendance

All students will be accounted for each class. It is the student's responsibility to see that their absences are excused and to turn in any assignments due that day. Unexcused absences will result in not being able to make up the work for the day. All district guidelines about absentee work will be followed.

Textbook

Myer's Psychology for the AP Course, Third Edition, David G. Myers and C. Nathan DeWall, Worth Publishers, 2018.

Each student will be issued a copy of the Myers' Psychology text. This text is used at many colleges and universities throughout the country for their Introductory Psychology course. If you were taking this course in college and had to purchase the text, it would cost you well over \$100. Use the book, get the most information about psychology from it you can, but please handle it with extra care. I suggest putting some type of cover on the text. Any damage to the text will be the responsibility of the student. Do not bring the book with you to class on a daily basis.

Supplemental Text:

Will be discussed by teacher.

Some helpful hints in reading the text include:

1. Keep up with the reading assignments! Don't fall behind! Set a schedule for yourself and be disciplined enough to stick to it. Be prepared in class to discuss the reading assigned for that day and/or take a quiz on the material.
2. Learn to read more effectively.
 - a. Read actively; don't just look at the words. If you spend a half hour "reading" but are unable to recall anything when you are done, you have wasted your time. Reading a college level text requires a great deal more effort and concentration than the latest novel does.
 - b. Do not try to read the entire chapter at once. Each chapter of your text is divided into several major sections. Limit your reading to one of these sections at a sitting.
 - c. Do NOT ignore pictures, diagrams, tables, sidebars, etc. in your textbook. These features were added to your text for a reason. They make the text more interesting and usually provide important information.
 - d. Preview the chapter before you start reading. Read the chapter summary when you finish.
 - e. Take notes as you read. If you can condense a 30 page chapter to a few pages of good notes, it's going to be much easier to review.

Tests and Quizzes

Unit Tests. At the conclusion of each unit a test will be given. All multiple choice portions of tests for the class are scored using the scanner so a #2 pencil is needed. Tests are usually announced well in advance therefore only those absent the day of the test should need to take a makeup. If a student misses only the test date they will take the test on their return after school. In a few cases the test may be taken during the class hour dependent on the class activities of the day. Students missing for more than just the test day must make up the test outside of class time within a week of the missed test. Exceptions will be made for extended absences.

Cumulative Tests. To help prepare for the AP Exam in May, a few cumulative tests will be given prior to the AP Exam. Each test will cover all the material from the beginning of the school year to that point.

Semester Final Exams. At the end of each semester a final exam will be given. The questions will be taken from previous unit and cumulative tests from that semester.

Quizzes. Announced or unannounced quizzes may be given at anytime during the year. Usually quizzes are based on the activities of the previous day or the assigned reading for the day.

Getting Help

Please don't be afraid to get help if you do not understand something. The ultimate responsibility to learn psychology is yours but I am willing to help you in any way I can. To get help you can:

1. Ask questions during class.
2. See me before or after school (or office hours during Distance Learning). If possible, try to coordinate a time with me so I can make sure I'm available.
3. You can email me at mary_carpentier@chino.k12.ca.us

Other Helpful Hints to Succeed in AP Psychology

These are ideas to help you succeed in the course other than those already stated.

1. A large portion of psychology is learning various terms and concepts. One way to help learn the items is to create vocabulary flashcards on 3x5 index cards. The flashcards will help you in the following ways:
 - a. Making the cards helps you learn the vocabulary.
 - b. You can easily separate the terms you know from those you need to work on. This makes for efficient studying.
 - c. The cards provide an excellent tool to review which will be very useful for the cumulative tests and the AP Exam in May.
2. Form a study group with other students. This is an excellent way to help each other. Beware that working in groups does have some disadvantages. Before forming a group make sure each member is willing to put in their fair share of the work. I'd be happy to meet with any group that wants to discuss ways they can work together.
3. If you have Internet access, there are various sites which are designed to help students who are learning psychology. Some sites include explanations of concepts and even practice tests you may take. Information about these sites will be provided during the year.
4. In your reading, studying for tests, taking notes, etc. always remember you will be tested on the material not only in the test at the end of that particular unit, but the cumulative tests at the end of each quarter and the AP Exam in May. At the end of each unit look over the material and organize it for later review.

It is my sincere hope that years from now, you will remember this course as one of the best you ever took; a course that challenged you and encouraged you to learn all you could about a most fascinating subject - Psychology. I look forward to working with you this year. Good Luck!

Conquistador Way Expectations

Routines	Be Responsible	Be Respectful	Be Involved
Transitions (Start/End/ Break)	--Sit in assigned seat, be prepared to work --Check board for daily assignment and homework --Clear desk of all materials except what is needed --Start Question of the Day	--Wait outside until greeted --Enter and exit classroom orderly --Put cell phones, ear buds, and hats away --Put food away properly	--Start/Transitions: Be ready with necessary materials --End: Clean up area and put materials away (class set of books) --End: Stay seated until bell rings
Direct Instruction	--Give your full attention to the presenter or activity --Follow directions	--Listen attentively --Positively contribute for discussion --Raise your hand for questions or comments	--Stay on task and follow along with the instruction --Be ready to contribute when called upon --Have proper materials --Ask questions for clarification
Individual Work	--Quietly stay on task --Use time wisely --Use devices appropriately with teacher approval	--Allow others to learn --Encourage others to stay focused and on-task	--Put forth your best effort --Ask questions for clarifications
Group Work	--Stay on task --Use time wisely --Use devices appropriately with teacher approval	--Respect the opinion of others --Work as a team --Communicate with your group members only	--Work cooperatively in groups --Complete all group work
Homework/ classwork	--Turn in work on time --Do homework and classwork by due date.	--Check schedule for due dates --Turn your work in to the proper place	--Complete and turn in work by due dates --If absent, turn in work the day of return
Room Culture	--Use classroom materials responsibly --Notify teacher if there is a problem	--Be respectful when speaking to others --Honor other class member's personal space --Wait quietly if the teacher is assisting a classmate or finishing task	--Help other class members --Be understanding towards different class members --Be kind