

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

Social Studies Department – Course Statement

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Course Title: Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology</u></p> <p>Length of Course: Year</p> <p>Number of Credits: 2</p> <p>Grade Level: 10, 11, 12</p> <p>Prerequisites: Instructor Approval</p> <p>CIM Work Samples</p> <p>Offered in Course: Persuasive writing (research paper)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date of Description/Revision: June 2006</p>	
Course Overview	
<p>This is a college-level psychology course. Curriculum will be driven by the national course outline with a concentration on the basic principles of experimental and clinical psychology. Topics will include but not be limited to: research, ethics, normal and abnormal human development, and clinical intervention. Students will engage in research, extensive reading, and interact with practitioners from the mental health community. Upon completion of the course, a student should possess a basic understanding of psychological concepts and be prepared for the AP exam in the spring. Essential is a high level of commitment to scholarship and a willingness to accept responsibility for one's own learning experience.</p>	
Essential Questions	Concepts providing focus for student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has psychology changed from a study of philosophy to a social science? • What accounts for why people behave the way they do? • How do people and animals learn new tasks, information, and languages? • How should psychological disorders be treated? • How do psychologists define and categorize abnormal behavior? • What is intelligence and how can we measure it? • How does the environment impact human behavior? 	
Proficiency Statements	
<p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct psychological research. • Evaluate psychological research designs and findings. • Apply key terms from the study of psychology. • Identify key psychologists and studies from within the field. 	

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General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<p><u>Semester 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. History and Approaches of Psychology as a Science B. Research Methods C. Relationship Between Biology, Brain, and Behavior D. Human development E. Sensation and Perception F. States of Consciousness G. Learning H. Cognition <p><u>Semester 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Motivation and Emotion J. Stress and Health K. Personality L. Testing, Intelligence, and Individual Differences M. Abnormal Psychology N. Treatment of Psychological Disorders O. Social Psychology 	
Resources	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: <i>Psychology, 7th Edition, In Modules</i>, David G. Myers, Worth Publishers, 2004 Companion Guides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Pursuing Human Strengths: A Positive Psychology Guide</i> ○ <i>Critical Thinking Companion, 2nd Edition</i> ○ <i>Improving the Mind and Brain: A Scientific American Special Issue</i> ○ <i>The Scientific American Reader to Accompany Myers</i> • Text: <i>Introduction to Psychology, 7th Edition</i>, Rod Plotnik, Wadsworth Publishing, 2005 • Other: <i>Discovering Psychology with Phillip Zimbardo, Updated Edition</i>, Annenberg/CPB Video Series, 2001