



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

AP Psychology 2013-2014

Course Description:

The AP PSYCHOLOGY course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. This is a weighted class.

Course Content:

AP Psychology Course Unit Outline: The units will be divided between the first and second semester. You will receive a more specific breakdown of these units at the beginning of the school year.

- I. History, Approaches & Research Methods (Chapter 1)
- II. Biological Bases of Behavior (Chapter 2)
- III. Sensation & Perception (Chapter 6)
- IV. Developmental Psychology (Chapters 4 & 5)
- V. States of Consciousness (Chapter 3)
- VI. Learning (Chapter 7)
- VII. Memory, Cognition, Thinking & Language (Chapters 8 & 9)
- VIII. Intelligence (Chapter 10)
- IX. Motivation & Emotion (Chapters 11 & 12)
- X. Personality (Chapter 13)
- XI. Abnormal Psychology (Chapter 14)
- XII. Treatment of Psychology Disorders (Chapter 15)
- XIII. Social Psychology (Chapter 16)

Content Outline Evaluation Breakdown:

These are the major areas covered by the AP Psychology Exam, as well as the approximate percentages of the multiple-choice section that are devoted to each area.

I.	History & Approaches	2-4%
II.	Research Methods	8-10%
III.	Biological Bases of Behavior	8-10%
IV.	Sensation and Perception	6-8%
V.	Developmental Psychology	7-9%
VI.	States of Consciousness	2-4%
VI.	Learning	7-9%
VII.	Memory, Cognition, & Language	8-10%
VIII.	Motivation and Emotion	6-8%
IX.	Personality	5-7%
X.	Intelligence, Testing, & Individual Differences	5-7%
XI.	Abnormal Psychology	7-9%

XII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders	5-7%
XIII. Social Psychology	8-10%

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

1. Textbook: *AP Psychology* 9th Edition 2010, Worth Publishers New York, NY by David G. Myers with accompanying instructor's resources.

Course Requirements:

Course Expectations:

- o You will be given a list of terms to identify for each chapter. Index cards will be needed to create flash cards. These identifications will be collected and graded as homework for every chapter we cover.
- o You should have a notebook and a 3 ring binder for notes and handouts. These should be brought to class everyday.
- o You will need a separate notebook for journal assignments.
- o You are expected to take notes on class discussion and material presented in class.
- o Students are ultimately responsible for their own learning and are expected to read assignments on time and come to class prepared to take part in discussions.
- o You will be expected to contribute to class discussions and will be given a grade for class participation.
- o All assignments should be done independently unless otherwise directed. The sharing of work will not be tolerated unless otherwise directed.
- o There is a strong writing component on the AP Exam that requires frequent exercise and rehearsal that demonstrates analysis and application of scientific concepts. You will be expected to learn how to write effective analytical and document-based essays.

Grading Policy

- o You will be graded on a total point system, which will consist of scores from tests, essays, quizzes, homework, journal assignments, alternative assessments, and class participation. You will also have a midterm and a final exam.
- o Work must be completed on a daily basis to keep up with the workload. There will be a series of graded items that will accumulate during each period.
- o It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to make up exams or other work missed. All make up tests must be made up before or after school. The more class time you miss, the harder it will be for you to succeed.
- o Late work will not be accepted except in circumstances approved by the teacher.

Assessment Practices:

Each unit will last between 5-12 days and consist of approximately:

- o 1 Unit Test
- o 1-2 Quizzes
- o Daily reading & writing assignments
- o Defining Terminology
- o 2-5 Journal Assignments
- o Class Participation
- o 1-2 Projects

Unit Tests (Points Vary)

Tests will closely resemble the AP exam. These tests will include multiple-choice questions and/or an essay in either free response or document-based format. Tests will be rigorous as they are intended to challenge the student at the Advanced Placement Level. Tests will be frequent to insure that students read the textbook and supplementary readings, consistently checking for understanding, and take copious notes that are thorough and well organized.

Quizzes (Points Vary)

These are randomly scheduled at least once each unit and may consist of multiple-choice questions on unit content or on unit terminology.

Daily Reading & Writing Assignments (Points Vary)

Writing is a major component of the AP exam and you will be expected to write frequently. There is a certain format that you must follow and once the procedure is discussed you will be expected to improve within that format. Reading also is vital to your success in this course. You will be expected keep up with a daily reading schedule. The knowledge you gain from your daily reading will be used in class discussions, activities, & projects.

Defining Terminology (Points Vary)

Each unit will present you with a list of terms. Knowing these terms is paramount to your success in this course and on the AP Exam. You will need 3x5 index cards to create flashcards. These will be an excellent resource throughout the year.

Journal Assignments (Points Vary)

Journal assignments allow you the ability to think a little deeper about what is being covered. Journal assignments also give you the opportunity to go further with the information by allowing you to critically think and independently explore. Journal assignments may deal with some of the following:

- Student reflection on readings
- Class discussion & activities
- Personal experiences
- Recent news or television broadcasts
- Internet research

Class Participation

Class participation will vary from discussions, debates, activities, projects, presentations, simulations, and more. Students are not only expected to participate but also be prepared to participate by completing readings and other work on their own.

Projects (Points Vary)

Projects will vary from experiments, posters, and more and will have a strong emphasis on the use of technology.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%

Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

Summer assignments are given to students at the end of the previous school year. They may also be picked up in the Guidance Office during the summer.