

**AP Psychology**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Southern Lehigh High School**  
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**Course Purpose:**

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 course is taught at the college level. The major difference between a high school and college course is the amount of reading and depth of focus. You will be required to cover material on your own. The AP curriculum stresses higher order thinking skills within a rigorous academic context. Students will be required frequently to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate primary and secondary sources in addition to memorizing, comprehending, and applying facts.

**Course Materials:**

1. Textbook: *AP Psychology* 9<sup>th</sup> Edition 2010, Worth Publishers New York, NY by David G. Myers with accompanying instructor's resources.
2. Study Guide to accompany David G. Myers *AP Psychology* 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Worth Publishers New York, NY, by Richard O. Straub
3. Various articles, diagrams, & pictures from newspapers, magazines, and websites.

**Helpful Information:**

The following website(s) will be very helpful to you throughout the year.

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) -- examples of tests, essays, and answers

**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%

**Course Expectations:**

- 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.
- You should have a notebook and a 3 ring binder for notes and handouts. These should be brought to class everyday.
- You will need a separate notebook for journal assignments.
- You are expected to take notes on class discussion and material presented in class.
- 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.
- You will be expected to contribute to class discussions and will be given a grade for class participation.
- All assignments should be done independently unless otherwise directed. The sharing of work will not be tolerated unless otherwise directed.
- 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**

- 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 final project and a final exam.
- 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.
- 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.
- Late work will be accepted no more than 1 school day late and will receive no more than half credit.

### **Assessment Practices:**

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

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

### **Unit Tests**

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**

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

### **Reading & Writing Assignments**

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**

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**

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**

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

## **AP Psychology Summer Assignments**

*Summer assignments are designed to prime you for understanding how to think psychologically as you begin this course. There are two summer assignments. Please read all the directions carefully. Do not hesitate to email me with any questions throughout the summer. **There will be test on the first day of class on the information from these assignments.***

### **The 2 Summer Assignments:**

*Assignment #1: Read the Prologue in the text, take notes & do Keyword Definitions*

*Assignment #2: Major Names to Know in Psychology*

### **Summer Assignment #1**

#### **Part 1**

**Directions:** You are to read the Prologue: The Story of Psychology, pages 1-16 in the textbook. While reading take notes, define terms (boldface terms, and create “Key word” definitions for each boldface term. A Key word definition is a definition you create that is 6 words or less. Sounds weird but trust me, you will need to know over 600 terms to be successful and this will make that task much easier.

Your first exam will be on the first day of class and will encompass the information from this assignment.

# **AP Psychology Summer Assignment #2**

## **Major Names to Know for the AP Psychology Exam**

### **“Scouting Report on the Varsity Team of Psycho. Figures”**

Students are to create a “Scouting Report” or reference guide for the top names or “varsity team” in psychology. These are the most frequently occurring names on the AP Psychology Exam and the sooner you become familiar with them, the better. There is a term in psychology called “the mere exposure effect,” which basically states that just by merely being exposed to a stimulus, the more likely you are to become familiar with and prefer that stimulus. In this case, familiarization and exposure to these influential psychologists will help you to build a solid foundation for this course.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this assignment provides you with an overview of the fundamental contributions of key psychologists that you will be studying this year.

#### **Guidelines**

As part of the course, you will be compiling your work through the year into a portfolio that will be of great value to you when studying for the AP Exam. For this part of your summer assignment, you will be creating a detailed reference guide that highlights the key psychologists you will be analyzing this year (we will refer to them as “varsity psychologists”).

To do this, you are to create a graphically organized reference guide or chart that includes all of the “Varsity Psychologists”.

Your organizer/chart needs to provide thorough (not “fluffy”), succinct (please, don’t go on and on about the individual make your passages “meaty”), answers to the following essential questions:

**What was the lifespan of the individual? This provides you with a sense “era”.**

**What was the researcher’s area(s) of study? This should be a 1-5 word description, tops**

What were the “basics” of the researcher’s study? Here you need to go into a little more detail on the area of study. What were they trying to find out? What did they believe about their area of study? Here you also need to include the names of any famous studies they are known for. Any names of studies and/or theories they are especially known for should be bold and/or underlined.

Example:

Psychologist	Lifespan	Area(s) of Study	Basics of research/study ( No need to go too overboard, but be sure it’s “meaty”. The length in the example below is plenty.)
 Erik Erikson	1902-1994	Theories on Development	Developed an approach to the personality that extended Freud’s theory (Sharkey, 1997). He believed that personality develops through one’s lifespan (Freud believed that it was pretty much “set” by five) (Sharkey, 1997). It is unique in that it recognizes the impact of society, history, and culture on personality during one’s lifespan (Sharkey, 1997). <b>Stages of Psychosocial Development, Identity Crisis</b>

### Additional Requirements

**Include the headings in your organizer. Include a photo of your psychologist.**

This is NOT to be turned, but I highly recommend keeping this somewhere, where you keep future handouts & work, which can be used as a reference guide to study for my exams and eventually the AP Exam in May. *There will also be a test on this information on the first day of this course, so the sooner you start to become familiar with these names, the better off you will be.* Don't worry, we will be spending a great deal of time this year learning all of these names (and many more!) and about all of the information presented here - this is just a head start.

### Top 25 Names to Know for AP Psychology

1. William Wundt
2. William James
3. Jean Piaget
4. Erik Erikson
5. Harry Harlow
6. Diana Baumrind
7. Mary Ainsworth
8. Lawrence Kohlberg
9. Ivan Pavlov
10. John Watson
11. BF Skinner

12. Albert Bandura
13. Elizabeth Loftus
14. Noam Chomsky
15. Howard Gardener
16. Alfred Binet
17. Lewis Terman
18. Sigmund Freud
19. Carl Jung
20. Alfred Adler
21. Abraham Maslow
22. Carl Rogers
23. Phillip Zimbardo
24. Solomon Asch
25. Stanley Milgram