

AP Psychology Course Syllabus

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Required Textbook:

Myers, D. (2014). *Myers' Psychology for AP*. (2nd ed.). New York: BFW/Worth Publishers.
ISBN: 978-1-4641-1307-9

Course Description

This course is an introduction to various areas of psychology, including scientific investigation, motivation, personality, intelligence, behavioral deviation, perception, learning and human development. It offers a basis for further study in related areas.

Course Objectives:

1. To assist students with identifying any misconceptions and/or lack of background knowledge, thus allowing them to develop a solid foundation upon which to construct future learning
2. To instill an understanding of ethical behavior as it applies to the field with applications to ethical living in our modern world
3. To help students develop an appreciation and understanding of the field of psychology and its application to various fields of study
4. To help students understand the history of the development of the field and future directions
5. To assist students with learning to become critical thinkers
6. To develop students skills of avoiding one's perceptions, thus not impeding critical thinking and allowing deeper levels of learning
7. To help students comprehend multiple perspectives on human behavior and how each perspective compliments each other
8. To assist students with developing an increased awareness of self and others

Teaching Format:

The class will be formatted as a discussion and active learning style class. You will be asked to read relevant chapters from your textbook and come prepared to participate in class discussion and group activities.

Course Evaluation Criteria:

Class Participation:

The smooth functioning on the class and your learning depend on promptness and the ability to take part in discussions. Class participation includes attending class, contributing to class discussions or activities and reading assigned sections

Homework Assignments:

Throughout the semester you will be asked to write essays answering a question related to psychology (see topics and due dates on last page). The essays should be 1 to 2 pages in length, typed, double spaced, using correct grammar and spelling, and should address the question fully, using detailed examples and explanations. Grading is as follows:

- √+ (100): Addressed the question fully, no grammar mistakes, not late
- √ (85): Either did not address question fully, grammar mistakes, or 1 class late
- √- (65): Either 2 classes late, did not address the question and grammar mistakes
- 0: 3 or more classes late

Chapter Exams:

There will be 14 chapter assessments in total, all weighted equally. The chapter assessments will cover chapter readings and material covered in class.

End of Chapter Questions

There will be end of chapter multiple choice questions for every module we cover. These questions will be collected the day following the completion of the module.

Student Presentation/Research Paper:

Each student will be responsible for two research papers and one in class presentation. See accompanying handout.

Debates

Each student will be responsible for one in-class team debate. See accompanying handout.

Final Grades:

In summary, grades will be based on the following criterion:

Participation:	10%
End of Chapter Questions:	10%
Homework Assignments:	15%
Research Papers/Debate/ Presentation:	25%
<u>Chapter Exams</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total:	100%

Tentative Course Schedule

Readings should have been read before the class listed

Class	Topic	Module Readings	Due
1	Introduction to Class		
2	Introduction to Class		
3	Introduction to Psychology	1-8	
4	Introduction to Psychology		
5	Introduction to Psychology		
6	Research Methods		
7	Research Methods		
8	Research Methods		
9	Research Methods		
10	Research Methods		
11	Research Methods		
12	Research Methods		
13	<u>EXAM 1</u>		Assignment 1
14	Cognition	31-36	
15	Cognition		
16	Cognition		
17	Cognition		
18	Cognition		
19	Cognition		
20	Cognition		
21	Cognition		
22	Cognition		
23	Cognition		
24	Cognition		
25	Cognition		
26	<u>EXAM 2</u>		Assignment 2
27	Learning	26-30	
28	Learning		
29	Learning		
30	Learning		
31	Learning		
32	Learning		
33	Learning		
34	<u>EXAM 3</u>		Assignment 3
35	Biological Basis of Behavior	9-15	
36	Biological Basis of Behavior		
37	Biological Basis of Behavior		
38	Biological Basis of Behavior		
39	Biological Basis of Behavior		
40	Biological Basis of Behavior		
41	Biological Basis of Behavior		
42	Biological Basis of Behavior		
43	Biological Basis of Behavior		
44	Biological Basis of Behavior		
45	Biological Basis of Behavior		
46	Biological Basis of Behavior		
47	<u>EXAM 4</u>		Assignment 4
48	Developmental Psychology	45-54	

49	Developmental Psychology		
50	Developmental Psychology		
51	Developmental Psychology		
52	Developmental Psychology		
53	Developmental Psychology		
54	Developmental Psychology		
55	Developmental Psychology		
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57	Developmental Psychology		
58	Developmental Psychology		
59	Developmental Psychology		
60	Developmental Psychology		
61	Developmental Psychology		
62	Developmental Psychology		
63	<u>EXAM 5</u>		Assignment 5
64	Personality	55-59	
65	Personality		
66	Personality		
67	Personality		
68	Personality		
69	Personality		
70	Personality		
71	Personality		
72	<u>EXAM 6</u>		Assignment 6
73	States of Consciousness	22-25 & 81	
74	States of Consciousness		
75	States of Consciousness		
76	States of Consciousness		
77	States of Consciousness		
78	States of Consciousness		
79	States of Consciousness		
80	Debate Prep		
81	States of Consciousness		
82	States of Consciousness		
83	<u>EXAM 7</u>		Assignment 7
84	Buffer		
85	Buffer		
86	Debate Prep		
87	Mid Terms		
88	Mid Terms		
89	Mid Terms		
90	Mid Terms		
91	Sensation & Perception	16-21	
92	Sensation & Perception		
93	Sensation & Perception		
94	Sensation & Perception		
95	Sensation & Perception		
96	Sensation & Perception		
97	Sensation & Perception		
98	Sensation & Perception		
99	Sensation & Perception		
100	Sensation & Perception		

101	Sensation & Perception		
102	Sensation & Perception		
103	<u>EXAM 8</u>		Assignment 8
104	Abnormal Psychology	65-69	
105	Abnormal Psychology		
106	Abnormal Psychology		
107	Abnormal Psychology		
108	Abnormal Psychology		
109	Abnormal Psychology		
110	Abnormal Psychology		
111	Abnormal Psychology		
112	Abnormal Psychology		
113	Abnormal Psychology		
114	Abnormal Psychology		
115	Abnormal Psychology		
116	<u>EXAM 9</u>		Assignment 9
117	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior	70-73	
118	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
119	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
120	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
121	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
122	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
123	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
124	Treatment of Abnormal Behavior		
125	<u>EXAM 10</u>		Assignment 10
126	Motivation and Emotion	37-44	
127	Motivation and Emotion		
128	Motivation and Emotion		
129	Motivation and Emotion		
130	Motivation and Emotion		
131	Motivation and Emotion		
132	Motivation and Emotion		
133	Motivation and Emotion		
134	Motivation and Emotion		
135	<u>EXAM 11</u>		Assignment 11
136	Social Psychology	74-80	
137	Social Psychology		
138	Social Psychology		
139	Social Psychology		
140	Social Psychology		
141	Social Psychology		
142	Social Psychology		
143	Social Psychology		
144	<u>EXAM 12</u>		Assignment 12
145	AP TEST REVIEW		
146	AP EXAM DAY – BREATHER		
147	Testing & Individual Differences	60-64	
148	Testing & Individual Differences		
149	Testing & Individual Differences		
150	Testing & Individual Differences		
151	Testing & Individual Differences		
152	<u>EXAM 13</u>		Assignment 13

153	Presentations
154	Presentations
155	Presentations
156	Presentations
157	Presentations
158	Presentations
159	Presentations
160	Presentations
161	Presentations
162	Presentations
163	Presentations
164	Presentations
165	Presentations
166	Presentations
167	Presentations
168	Presentations
169	Presentations
170	

EXAM 14

Assignment 14

Homework Assignments

Assignments are due on the day listed. Please see my policy on grading late assignments

Topic	
1	How do you think psychology might change as a result of more people from non-western countries (any country not in Europe or America) contributing their ideas to the field? What possible problems and benefits do you foresee?
2	What is imagination? How would you go about defining the term? What's the plus side of having it? Downside?
3	Think of an example in which your parents used operant conditioning to get you to do something or not to do something when you were a child. Did the conditioning work? Why or Why not? What kind of reinforcement schedule did they plan on using, which reinforcement schedule did they actually use?
4	The brain is a very complex organ. If you were a god and were designing humans, how would you design the brain? Would you have separate sections for different functions, or one undivided brain that could do everything?
5	Write a letter to your parents. <u>The letter to your parents should contain the following information:</u> 1) Describe your general feelings about your present life and values and try to assess your parents' influence on you. 2) Describe three strengths of your parents. 3) Describe a weakness of your parents or some characteristics of your parents that you would have like to have changed. 4) Choose one or two areas of development – intellectual, moral, personality, social – in which your parents had the most influence and explain how or why. 5) Thank your parents for something special. (You can choose whether to show your parents the letter or not)
6	Freud is sometimes described as the father of psychology, but his critics do not agree. Do you think that Freud's ideas are relevant today, or are they outdated, or irrelevant for the modern world? Be sure to support your argument with specifics.
7	In your opinion should the term addiction be applied to conditions such as gambling, eating, the internet?
8	If you had to give up one sense, which one would it be and why?
9	How would you draw the line between sending disturbed criminals to prison or to mental hospitals? Would the person's history (for example – being abused as a child) influence your decision?
10	How do you feel about giving people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness (bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, etc.) the freedom to choose not to take medication? Should we force people to take medication for their own safety and others, or should we allow them the right to decide?
11	Do you think you are more influenced by internal hunger cues or external hunger cues? Give a few examples that support this hypothesis

12	How could you use the principles of social psychology to persuade your parents to buy you a new car?
13	Proponents of multiple intelligences assume that the word smarts and number smarts measured by the traditional intelligence tests are not the only way to measure intelligence. Different people have different gifts. Do you agree with this concept? What kinds of intelligences do you have?
14	Suggestions for improving the class or explaining what worked well. Be honest, but constructive (my feelings are important to me). There will be no negative penalty for speaking your mind because my goal is to always refine the formula to create a better learning environment.