

## AP Psychology

*"Compared to what we ought to be, we are half awake."*

-William James (the father of American psychology)

### **I. Introduction**

This is a semester-long course designed to provide Advanced Placement students with an introduction to psychology, which is the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The intent of this course is to prepare students for further study at the collegiate level and is also a valuable resource in preparation for the AP Exam in psychology.

### **II. Course Objectives**

Students will be able to do all of the following:

- Analyze differing approaches adopted by psychologists in each of the contemporary perspectives of psychology.
- Apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
- Define and use key psychology terms in their everyday use.
- Describe the different types of psychological research.
- Develop reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.
- Evaluate explorations and discoveries made by psychologists over the past 150 years.
- Form an appreciation of how psychologists think.
- Identify and explain the major core concepts and theories of psychology.
- Prepare for success on the AP Psychology Examination.

### **III. Grading**

- Tests/Quizzes: 50%
- Unit Activities: 15%
- Writing Assignments: 15%
- Class Participation: 11%
- Final Exam: 9%

### **IV. Student Resources**

- Summer Reading:

Students will be responsible for reading the selected summer reading book assigned for this course. Students should be prepared to take an exam on the summer reading book during the first week of the semester.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. Alexandria, Va.: Alexandria Library, 2007. Print.

- Student Textbook :

Zimbardo, Philip G. *Psychology: AP\* Edition with Discovery Psychology*. Boston, Mass.: Allyn & Bacon, 2010. Print.

- Supplemental Reading:

During this course students will read numerous short articles and other readings from various sources including: books, newspapers, magazines, and journals.

## V. Teacher Resources

*5 Steps to a 5 AP Psychology, 2010-2011*. 3rd ed. New York, N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 2010. Print.

Benjamin, Ludy T. *Favorite Activities for the Teaching of Psychology*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2008. Print.

Brandt, Laura. *Test Bank for Psychology with Discovering Psychology*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2010. Print.

Brown, Fred, Daniel A. Conforti, and Rita L. Atkinson. *Advanced Placement Psychology: a Practical Guide for Teachers*. Culver City, California: DAC Educational, 1991. Print.

Cameron, Samuel M., and Peter D. Barsky. *Teacher's Guide to Advanced Placement Courses in Psychology*. New York, N.Y.: College Board, 2008. Print.

*Classroom Debates: Psychology/Sociology*. Yorba Linda, California: DAC Educational Publications, 1995. Print.

Conforti, Daniel A. *Ten Short Research Topics for AP Psychology: Instructor & Student Resource Materials*. Culver City, California: DAC Educational, 1991. Print.

Finley, Diane, and Geraldine Acquard. *Preparing for the Psychology AP\* Exam with Zimbardo, Johnson, Weber, and Gruber*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2007. Print.

Leach, Robert B. *Making Psychology Fun & Relevant*. Vol. 3. Azusa, California: Relevance, 2001. Print.

Sharpsteen, Don, Karen H. Brown, and Tia G. Patrick. *The Best Test Preparation for the Advanced Placement Examination: Psychology*. Piscataway, N.J.: Research & Education Association, 2005. Print.

Vargas, Stephanie. *Teaching Psychology Using the Internet: Reproducible Activities for the Classroom*. Culver City, Calif.: Social Studies School Service, 2001. Print.

Weseley, Allyson, and Robert McEntarffer. *AP Psychology*. 3rd ed. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series, 2007. Print.

## VI. Extra Credit

Students can earn extra credit by reading an article from a psychology journal or magazine and writing a summary and critique of the article. This may be done once per marking period and the extra credit points will be added to the test/quiz grade for that quarter. The following rubric will be used for grading all extra credit assignments:

	2	1.5	1	.5
<b>Length</b>	Paper was at least 2 full pages typed and double-spaced.	Paper was at least 1 1/2 full pages typed and double-spaced.	Paper was at least 1 full page typed and double-spaced.	Paper was at least 1/2 page typed and double-spaced.
<b>Content</b>	Both summary and critique were exceptionally done.	Both summary and critique were very well done.	Both summary and critique were adequately done.	Neither summary nor critique was well done.
<b>Conventions</b>	There were no errors found in the paper.	There were 1-2 errors found in the paper.	There were 3-4 errors found in the paper.	There were more than 5 errors found in the paper.

## **VII. Course Planning**

This AP Psychology course is broken down into the 16 units listed below, which align with the College Board themes. The amount of time planned for each unit is correlated with the percentage of questions from that unit on the AP Psychology Examination.

### **○ Semester Days 1-17**

#### **1) Introduction to the Course (1%)**

- a. Review of Course and Expectations
- b. Summer Reading Review and Exam

#### **2) Psychology History and Approaches (3%)**

- a. Science of Psychology
- b. Occupations in Psychology
- c. Schools of Psychology
- d. Contemporary Perspectives of Psychology

3) Research Methods (6%)

- a. Correlation
- b. Survey
- c. Methods of Observation
- d. Experiments
- e. Statistics
- f. Ethics

4) Biological Basis for Behavior (8%)

- a. Neuroscience
- b. Brain
- c. Nervous System
- d. Neural Pathways
- e. Endocrine System
- f. Genetics

○ **Semester Days 18-45**

5) Sensation and Perception (7%)

- a. Definitions/Thresholds
- b. Eyes/Ears/Smell/Taste/Touch
- c. Sensory Adaptation
- d. Attention/Perception

6) States of Consciousness (3%)

- a. Levels of Consciousness
- b. Sleep/Dreams
- c. Hypnosis
- d. Meditation/Sensory Deprivation
- e. Drugs
  - i. Treatment
  - ii. Addiction



7) Learning (7%)

- a. Classical Conditioning
- b. Operant Conditioning
- c. Reinforcement
- d. Latent Learning
- e. Modeling/Social Learning
- f. Learning Strategies

8) Cognition (8%)

- a. Memory
- b. Language
- c. Thinking
- d. Problem Solving/Creativity

9) Motivation and Emotion (7%)

- a. Biology of Emotions
- b. Theories on Motivation/Control Emotions
- c. Hunger/Sex/Pain/Deception
- d. Stress

- **Semester days 46-65**

10) Developmental Psychology (9%)

- a. Nature/Nurture Debate
- b. Psychical Development
- c. Cognitive Development-Piaget
- d. Social Development
- e. Ethical Development-Kohlberg

11) Personality (8%)

- a. Personality Theories
- b. Personality Tests
- c. Esteem/Confidence/Growth/Adjustment

12) Testing and Individual Differences (5%)

- a. Validity/Reliability
- b. Standards/Norms
- c. Measuring IQ
- d. IQ Differences

- **Semester days 66-90**

13) Abnormal Psychology (9%)

- a. Definitions of Mental Illnesses
- b. Types of Mental Illnesses

14) Treatment of Psychological Disorders (7%)

- a. Treatment Approaches
- b. Models of Therapy
- c. Preventative Approaches

15) Social Psychology (7%)

- a. Social Impact on Behavior
- b. Judgments
- c. Deviance

16) Course Review (5%)

- a. Final Exam/AP Exam Review and Preparation

