



AP Psychology Syllabus 2009-2010

Instructor: Ms. Suzuki

Office Hours: By Appointment

This year-long course is designed to be as challenging as *a college introductory psychology class*. This class will introduce you to systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. As prescribed by the College Board, the course traces the emergence of scientific psychology and covers the development of the major schools of psychology. You will be exposed to facts, theories, and phenomena within psychology including personality development, behavior, learning and memory. You will learn, evaluate, and employ various research methods that psychologists use in practice. You will also study and think critically of the ethical issues within psychology.

The pace of this class will be *intense*, the reading and assignments will be *challenging*, and we will cover *a lot* of material in preparation for the AP Exam. Lastly, we will have fun!

Required Texts and Materials

Texts:

Hock, R. R. (2008). *Forty studies that changed psychology: Explorations into the history of psychological research*. 6th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Myers, D. G. (2006). *Psychology: (8th Edition)*. Holland, MI: Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishing Group.
Author:MYERS Edition:8th ISBN:9780716764281

Pausch, R. (2008). *The last lecture*. New York, NY: Hyperion.

Materials:

Please have the following items by the first week of class.

- At least two notebook/s – one for homework and class notes; one for psychology journal
- Three-ring binder/s with tab dividers for at least each of the 14 units covered
- Paper, pens, #2 pencils with erasers, art supplies
- Plain white index cards – Lots of them!

Course Goals

Throughout this course you will:

- Develop a respect for the study of psychology.
- Strengthen critical thinking skills.
- Study the major core concepts and theories of psychology.
- Be able to define key terms and use them in everyday vocabulary.
- Learn basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to your life.
- Prepare and do acceptable work on the AP Psychology Examination.

Class Expectations

In order to develop these skills, you must:

- Maintain an open mind, respect others, and come to class prepared.
- Participate in classroom discussion and activities.
- Bring your textbook to every class, unless otherwise instructed.
- Follow class procedures and the school honor code.
- Conduct yourself in accordance to school rules at all times.
- Approach assignments and class activities with motivation, interest, and a commitment to learning.

Homework Expectations

Ample notice will be given for any assignment, quiz, or exam. There will be assigned pages to read in the textbook every night. Short articles and readings from books, newspapers, magazines, and journals also will be given. Other assignments include class presentations, projects, and papers. Updated information on homework and daily class activities will be available online at my website.

It is important that homework is completed when assigned. **LATE WORK** will be accepted at **ONE GRADE LOWER** for each day after it is due, unless previous arrangements have been made.

Vocabulary terms are also given for each unit. Quizzes are administered frequently, and may or may not be scheduled. Exams will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of multiple-choice questions and one free-response question (simulating the AP Exam).

Attendance / Grading

Regular attendance is crucial to success. If for some reason you are absent, it is **your responsibility** to speak with me **before or on the first day of your return** to make arrangements for make-up work. If an assignment was due on the day of the absence, it is expected that it be turned in upon your return to school.

Restroom policy: You should be taking care of that particular business before or after class! No exceptions!

Everyone taking AP Psychology must take the AP Test in May 2010. The AP fee from last year was \$84. Please check the 2009-2010 AP College Board Fees for any changes or updates. Your school billing invoice will include this fee.

Approximate point breakdown:

- Mini-Tests: 50-75 points each
- Tests: 100-120 points each
- Quizzes: 5-20 points each
- Homework: 5-20 points each
- Class Projects: 20-50 points each
- Participation: 50 points
- Fall Semester Service Learning Project: 250 points
- Spring Semester Research Project: 250 points

Scale: The grading scale for AP Psychology will be the same as the scale in the Student Handbook.

Grade calculation: If you want to figure out your grade for the class, take your total points, divide them by the total points possible and then multiply that by 100%. You should keep a record of each assignment and the total points possible, so that you can add them up occasionally and see how you are doing.

Projects

This course is designed to take a broad overview of psychology and as such will include various projects assigned throughout the year, as well as selected literature and movies that are appropriate to the unit being studied.

Sample list may include:

50 First Dates	I Am Sam	Pleasantville
August Rush	Lars and the Real Girl	Rain Man
Beautiful Mind	Life is Beautiful	Real Women Have Curves
Breakfast Club	Matchstick Men	Super Size Me
Cinderella	Miracle	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Pay It Forward	

Year-Long Plan

Unit I: History, Approaches (2-4%) / BLACK

- A. Logic, Philosophy, History of Science
- B. Approaches/Perspectives

Unit II: Research Methods (8-10%) / DARK YELLOW

- A. Experimental, Correlation, Clinical Research
- B. Statistics, Research Methods and Ethics

Unit III: Biological Basis of Behavior (8-10%) / RED

- A. Physiological Techniques
 - a. (e.g., imaging, surgical)
- B. Neuroanatomy
- C. Functional Organization of Nervous System
- D. Neural Transmission
- E. Endocrine System
- F. Genetics

Unit IV: Sensation & Perception (6-8%) / PINK

- A. Thresholds
- B. Sensory Mechanisms
- C. Sensory Adaptation
- D. Attention
- E. Perceptual Processes

Unit V: States of Consciousness (2-4%) / BLACK

- A. Sleep and Dreaming
- B. Hypnosis
- C. Psychoactive Drug Effects

Unit VI: Learning (7-9%) / BROWN

- A. Classical & Operant Conditioning
- B. Cognitive Processes in Learning
- C. Biological Factors
- D. Social Learning (Observational Learning)

Unit VII: Memory and Cognition (8-10%) / BLUE

- A. Language and Thinking
- B. Problem Solving and Creativity

Unit VIII: Motivation and Emotion (6-8%) / LIGHT BLUE

- A. Biological Bases
- B. Theories of Motivation
- C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain
- D. Social Motives
- E. Theories of Emotion
- F. Stress

Unit IX: Developmental Psychology (7-9%) / GREEN

- A. Life-Span Approach
- B. Heredity–Environment Issues
- C. Developmental Theories
- D. Dimensions of Development
- E. Sex Roles, Sex Differences

Unit X: Personality (5-7%) / LIGHT GREEN

- A. Personality Theories and Approaches
- B. Assessment Techniques
- C. Self-concept/Self-esteem

Unit XI: Testing and Individual Differences (5-7%) / YELLOW

- A. Standardization, Norms, Reliability, & Validity
- B. Types of Tests
- C. Ethics and Standards in Testing
- D. Intelligence & Heredity/Environment
- E. Human Diversity

Unit XII: Abnormal Psychology (7-9%) / ORANGE

- A. Definitions of Abnormality
- B. Theories of Psychopathology
- C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
- D. Anxiety Disorders
- E. Somatoform Disorders
- F. Mood Disorders
- G. Schizophrenic Disorders
- H. Organic Disorders
- I. Personality Disorders
- J. Dissociative Disorders

Unit XIII: Treatment of Disorders (5-7%) / LIGHT ORANGE

- A. Treatment Approaches
- B. Community and Preventive Approaches

Unit XIV: Social Psychology (8-10%) / PURPLE

- A. Group Dynamics
- B. Attribution Process
- C. Interpersonal Perception
- D. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience
- E. Attitudes and Attitude Change
- F. Organizational Behavior
- G. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior

***NOTE: The teacher reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus.**

Some Final Thoughts

In a general sense, **all of us are psychologists**. We are complex beings living in an even more complex and ever-changing world, but some things remain constant. We all tend to study people, analyze their behavior, try to understand what they are thinking and feeling, and attempt to predict what they will do next. We ask questions – both seemingly small and big – to learn more about the “why’s” and “how’s” of life, only to find maybe more questions than answers. But the continual pursuit of knowledge and the questions that we ask are what I think makes us so unique. I find studying psychology very fascinating and personal. My hope is that we will open our minds, delve into our souls, think critically of the many topics we will explore, and also learn something new about ourselves in the process. Here’s to an exciting year ahead of us!

If at any time during the year, you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.