

Equinox Program
Course Title: Advanced Placement Psychology

Course Description

AP Psychology covers principles of each of psychology's major subfields and the methods psychologists use in research and practice. Topics include the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, cognition, personality, social psychology and abnormal psychology. Students review case studies, participate in class discussions and analyze experiment design, while practicing AP-style questions and essays. This course prepares students for the AP Psychology exam.

Essential Questions

- To what extent is every person (a) like all other people, (b) like some other people, (c) like no other people?
- Are humans products of innate, inborn tendencies, or reflections of experiences and upbringing?
- Are the characteristics we develop in childhood permanent, or do we change in predictable (and unpredictable) ways over the course of our lives?
- To what extent is behavior caused by processes that occur inside the person, or triggered by factors outside the person?

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- identify important elements in the history of psychology, and the different subfields of psychology.
- devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the validity of research reports.
- explain how behavior is related to activity in the nervous system and the brain.
- describe the difference between sensation and perception, and different types of sensation.
- identify different kinds of learning, including classical and operant conditioning and observational learning.
- discuss the role of memory and language in learning.
- describe models for cognitive, social, and moral development.
- recognize and distinguish between personality theories.
- explain various theories of intelligence and the use of intelligence tests.
- discuss abnormal behaviors and psychological disorders, as well as their treatments.
- recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
- understand the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

Instructional Strategies

Students will engage in several different types activities designed to provide differentiated instruction for individual abilities and interests. Flexible grouping according to learning styles, ability, interests, or achievement will be used in all cooperative learning activities. Questions for discussions and Socratic Seminars address all levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. In-class case study assignments are utilize problem-based learning techniques. Free-response workshops are scheduled throughout the course to address individual needs concerning content, writing skills, and critical thinking skills. Students are given choices of research project topics to address individual interests in subject matter.

Resources and Materials

- **Books**
 - a. Myers, David G., *Myers' Psychology for AP*, 1st Edition, 2011, ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-5251-5

- **Other Media**
 - a. Lecture/Discussion Guide (provided in course pack)
- **Materials**
 - a. Binder

Student Assessment

- **Pre-Assessment**
Released College Board AP Psychology Multiple-Choice Exam
- **CTD Grading Scale**

A+	100-97%	A	96-93%	A-	92-90%
B+	89-87%	B	86-83%	B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%	C	76-73%	C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%	D	66-63%	D-	62-60%
F	below 60%				
- **Breakdown of Final Grade**

Assignments	15%
Research Project	20%
Quizzes/FRQs	25%
Exams	40%
- **Post-Assessment**
Released College Board AP Psychology Multiple-Choice Exam

Schedule

Date	Topics	In-class Activities/Assignments/ Assessments	Independent Assignments
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • History and Approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Test • Discussion • History and Approaches Case Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Units 1-2 • Study for perspectives quiz
Tuesday	Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives Quiz • Discussion • Experimental Components Practice • Ethics Socratic Seminar • Ethics Case Studies • Discussion of Research Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 3 • Study for History/Approaches and Research Methods Exam
Wednesday	Biological Basis of Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History/Approaches and Research Methods Exam • FRQ Workshop • Discussion • Brain Abnormalities Case Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 4 • Study for brain function quiz • Work on research project
Thursday	Sensation and Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Function Quiz • Discussion • Sensation/Perception Demonstrations • Work on Research Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Units 5 • Study for Biological Basis of Behavior and Sensation/Perception Exam • Work on research project

Date	Topics	In-class Activities/Assignments/ Assessments	Independent Assignments
Friday	States of Consciousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Basis of Behavior and Sensation/Perception Exam • FRQ Workshop • Discussion • Research in Physical Punishment • Work on Research Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 6 • Study for States of Consciousness Quiz • Synthesis and evaluation of physical punishment research • Work on research project
Monday	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States of Consciousness Quiz • Discussion • Conditioning Practice • Physical Punishment Chalk Talk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 7 • Study for States of Consciousness and Learning Exam • Work on research project
Tuesday	Cognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States of Consciousness and Learning Exam • FRQ • Discussion • Memory Activities • Article Analysis and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 9 • Study for Cognition Exam • Research parenting styles • Work on research project
Wednesday	Developmental Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cognition Exam -FRQ Workshop -Discussion -Development Skits -Parenting Styles Socratic Seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Read Unit 8 -Study for Developmental Psychology Exam -Work on research project
Thursday	Motivation and Emotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Psychology Exam • FRQ • FRQ Workshop • Research Project Conferences • Discussion • Article Analysis and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Units 10-11 • Study for Motivation and Emotion Quiz • Work on research project
Friday	Personality and Intelligences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivation and Emotion Quiz • Discussion • Personality Activities • Intelligence Case Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Units 12-13 • Study for Motivation/Emotion and Personality/Intelligence Exam • Work on research project
Monday	Abnormal Psychology and Treatment of Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivation/Emotion and Personality/Intelligence Test • FRQ • Discussion • Abnormal Psychology Case Studies • Current Trends in Treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Unit 14 • Study for Abnormal Psychology and Treatment of Disorders Exam • Work on research project
Tuesday	Social Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal Psychology and Treatment of Disorders Exam • Discussion • Social Psychology Studies Analysis • Video Clips • Social Psychology in the News 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Social Psychology Exam • Complete research project
Wednesday	Cumulative Exam Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Psychology Exam • FRQ Workshop • Cumulative Exam Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for cumulative exam • Prepare for research project presentation

Date	Topics	In-class Activities/Assignments/ Assessments	Independent Assignments
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative Exam • Research Project Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative Exam • FRQ • Research Project Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for final project
Friday	Final Project and Course Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive psychology project 	Enjoy the rest of your summer!!!

CTD Statement on Third-Party Web Sites

Instructors are required to thoroughly review any third-party web sites they intend to use in their courses for inappropriate content. However, because web content continuously changes, CTD disclaims any responsibility for any of the content contained on third-party web sites used in course materials. If you become aware of anything that may be inappropriate, please notify CTD staff immediately.

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