



Advanced Placement Psychology

Dual Credit Availability

2022-2023

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An Introduction:

"Psychology is a very unsatisfactory science."
– Wolfgang Kohler

The term *psychology* comes from three Latin roots: *psyche* meaning breath, life, and soul; *logia* meaning speech, word, and reason; and *ology*, which means *the study of*. The modern definition for psychology is the study of the mind, brain, and behavior, but the original Latin can give us a glimpse of just how powerful this subject matter is as an academic discipline: It's the subject of breath, of life, of the soul, of speech, of word, of reason. Psychology is the summation of the whole human experience, from birth to death. It's the way you think, and the way you think about thinking. It explores ways to help you when you're hurting and remain resilient in the face of trauma. It's the subject that helps you overcome the problematic pieces of your past; the subject that helps you find a better future. As Wolfgang Kohler says, "Psychology is a very unsatisfactory science." Because it studies people, and people are soft. So psychology has to, often, be soft as well. But as an area of study, there are few as interesting, complex, and valuable.

Advanced Placement Psychology is an accelerated and rigorous academic course that is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. You will be exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields in psychology, as well as the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. At the conclusion of the course, all students will take the College Board Advanced Placement exam (this test is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2022). In addition, students can earn college credit for Introduction to Psychology / Principles of Psychology as a dual credit option.

Department: Social Studies

Designated Grade Levels: 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None (Psychology 1 & 2 would be a benefit)

Course Duration: 2 Semesters

Credits: 1 unit

Essential Questions:

1. How does the methodology of the research affect the outcome of a study?
2. How do ethical guidelines impact psychological research?
3. How can biology influence our behavior and mental processes?
4. What happens when a particular neurotransmitter is absent from the body?
5. How do biological and environmental factors interact to influence our behaviors and mental processes?
6. How do we process the information we receive from our environments?
7. How does our interpretation of the information we receive from the environment influence our behaviors and mental processes?
8. How do we learn?
9. How do our experiences influence our behaviors and mental processes?
10. What roles do memory and thinking play in our behaviors?
11. What is intelligence and how can we study it to understand it?
12. How do we perceive and understand ourselves?
13. What motivates us to think and act the way we do?
14. Why do some people respond to stress in a healthier way than others?
15. Why don't psychologists agree?
16. Why is psychological perspective necessary in the treatment of disorders?
17. How are psychological disorders treated?
18. How does the bias of a researcher affect their conclusions?

Unit Topics:

- **Semester 1**
 - Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology
 - Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior
 - Unit 3: Sensation & Perception
 - Unit 4: Learning
 - Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology
- **Semester 2**
 - Unit 6: Developmental Psychology

- Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Perception
- Unit 8: Clinical Psychology
- Unit 9: Social Psychology

Grade Breakdown

70% of Final Grade

Summative Scores

- Exams & Projects -

30% of Final Grade

Formative Scores

- Quizzes & Miscellaneous Assignments -

Point Values

<p>A</p> <p>100-90</p>	<p>B</p> <p>89-80</p>	<p>C</p> <p>79-70</p>	<p>D</p> <p>69-60</p>	<p>F</p> <p>59-0</p> <p>(Let's make sure this doesn't happen... Ever!)</p>
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Course Policies/Procedures

Please keep the following in mind:

- **Late Work:** Teachers may set due dates and deadlines for all marked assessment evidence that will be a part of a student grade. If a student fails to meet this deadline without prior communication with the teacher, they will only be eligible for 80% of the original points assigned. Work will NOT be accepted after the summative exam for which that work is meant to prepare you. This includes no exceptions. Late work must be submitted via email (as the assignment portals on Canvas will be closed). The email must include your name and the name of the assignment submission. If you were absent for an assignment, please mention that in the email as well.
- **Test Retake Policy:** Test retakes are not permitted in this class, for any reason.
- **Communication:** Every effort should be made to communicate directly, in-person, with the instructor when possible, as opposed to email. My email inbox tends to grow unruly, and emails are hard to keep up with; more than that, if you are a seated student, who sees

me everyday in class, I want you to feel comfortable coming and talking with me with questions or concerns about classroom performance. Please NEVER USE CANVAS AS A MESSAGING TOOL. In the past, I have encountered issues with Canvas not delivering messages or not alerting me via email of new messages, meaning students have missed out on a timely reply. Always try to approach me in-person first; if further digital communication is needed, please use email. Let me summarize this (since I'm not sure everyone's read it: **Do NOT send me emails if you are a seated student. Questions and concerns should be brought to me in-person. If you are virtual, homebound, quarantined, sick, etc. please feel free to email me at any point** (though, to be fair, if you're sick, you should probably take the time to heal before jumping back into school work).

- **Schedule:** Please be attentive to course due dates and manage your schedule accordingly. This is especially important in this class, where much of your reading will be done on your own time.
- **Attendance:** Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. If you arrive late, you miss material and will receive a tardy for the lesson. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with me to determine what they have missed and what (if anything) needs to be turned in for the missing day/s. Students will receive the number of days they are absent to complete missing work.
- **Chromebook:** Laptop use is encouraged in this course for the purposes of in-class assignments; however, I would ask that you try not to use them during lecture or in-class activities, as numerous psychological studies have found that the use of a laptop for note-taking has a poor correlation to retention and memory. Chromebook use will remain a constant part of this course. This means that students are expected to be present every day with a chromebook that is charged and ready for the full hour of class. Failure to bring your Chromebook, or to have it properly charged, does not excuse you from any activity, assignment, or test that is completed in class on that day, and failure to bring a charged Chromebook will result in those activities and assignments needing to be completed on the student's time.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in my class. Work that is found to be plagiarized falls under the category of academic dishonesty in the Waynesville Student Handbook and will receive an immediate disciplinary referral. The student will also receive a zero for the assignment, with no chance to make up the grade.
- **Disruptions:** Disrupting the class indicates a lack of respect for your fellow students and their educational endeavors. To that end, disrupting class in any fashion makes the student subject to immediate removal from the classroom, up to and including a disciplinary referral, parent contact, reflection essays, and after school detention.
- **Cell Phones:** Cell phones are awesome tools... really! I want you to use them. Just not in my class. Cell phones (and other electronic devices outside of the school-issued chromebook) are not to be used in my classroom *at any time* (unless I've specifically told you that you can use them)! This includes before and after the bell rings, and includes NO EXCEPTIONS. Parents hoping to make contact with their children should do so through the office. Phones should be put away in a bag or pocket where they are not accessible at any time during the instructional hour.
- **Headphones:** Keep your headphones put away unless given explicit permission for use.
- **When You're Tired, Remember:** You can only sleep if I'm sleeping
- **Above All:** Enjoy yourself!!!

Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have read Mr. Quick's syllabus and understand the expectations set forth in this class. By signing I also offer my consent to be a part of any and all scientific experiments that Mr. Quick may conduct as part of classroom lessons 😊...

Student Signature

Date

Guardian Signature

Date

