

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
AP Psychology (2012-2013)
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Course Purpose

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Course Outline

The following major units of study will be covered during the school year. The semester breakdown is tentative and may be changed due to circumstances. The outline is a basic guide. It is not intended as an all-inclusive list of topics. Chapter numbers may differ based on the book edition assigned to each student.

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><i>Unit 1 – Introduction & Research Methods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Chapter • Chapter 1 – Thinking Critically With Psychological Science <p><i>Unit 2 – Biology #1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 – Neuroscience & Behavior <p><i>Unit 3 – Biology #2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 – Sensation • Chapter 6 – Perception <p><i>Unit 4 – Biology #3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 – Motivation • Chapter 13 – Emotion • Chapter 17 – Stress <p><i>Unit 5 – Cognition #1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 – States of Consciousness • Chapter 8 – Learning <p><i>Unit 6 – Cognition #2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 – Memory • Chapter 10 – Thinking & Language 	<p><i>Unit 7 – Lifespan Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 – Nature v. Nurture • Chapter 4 – The Developing Person <p><i>Unit 8 – Socio-Cultural #1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 – Intelligence • Chapter 14 – Personality <p><i>Unit 9 – Socio-Cultural #2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders • Chapter 16 – Therapy <p><i>Unit 10 – Socio-Cultural #3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 – Social Psychology <p style="text-align: center;"><i>AP Psychology Exam</i> <i>Monday</i> <i>May 6, 2013</i></p>

Course Objectives

1. Students will prepare to score at least a three (3) on the AP Psychology Exam.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They will be able to recognize psychological principles when they encounter them in everyday situations.
4. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.
5. Students will build their reading, writing and discussion skills.
6. Students will learn about psychology as a profession and become aware of the educational requirements that must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

Course Characteristics

1. This is a college-level course. College level attitudes, work habits and products are expected of all students.
2. This class requires more reading than the typical high school honors class. Students who want to do well must complete all assignments on time.
3. Class time is important. Students who want to do well must attend and participate in class regularly.
4. Evaluations (grades) are based on the mastery of the material.
5. Learning is ultimately the responsibility of the student. In an advanced placement course, students are expected to be interested in their own learning and willing to devote the time necessary to explore the course content as fully as possible. A reading schedule and calendar are provided, so students can plan and prepare for the classes. Readings, assignments, quizzes and exams are listed on the *date that they are due*.

AP Psychology Exam

The AP Psychology exam is administered each year in early May. The exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions (70 minutes to complete) and two essays (50 minutes to complete). Information assessed on the exam covers material from throughout the year.