

Advanced Placement Psychology, 2008-2009

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OVERVIEW

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. The AP Psychology course content is defined in the booklet, "College Board AP: Psychology: Course Description, May 2008, May 2009," which is posted on my webpage. The primary objective of this yearlong course is to prepare you for the May 12, 2009 Advanced Placement Psychology Exam. This is done by providing you a broad overview of some theories and applications in this evolving field, as would be covered in a college introductory psychology course. The content and discussion will reflect the topics typically addressed in a college course. In addition to the course material, Shrewsbury's system-wide goals and the SHS mission statement are reflected in the course. Specifically, in line with the SHS Student Expectations, along with learning psychology, you should work to

1. Apply critical thinking and creative literacy skills to formulate and express opinions in a variety of ways.
2. Demonstrate mathematical and scientific literacy while using problem solving and reasoning skills.
3. Exhibit effective speaking, writing and reading skills.
4. Demonstrate an appropriate and varied use information literacy and technology skills.
5. Develop and maintain positive health and fitness habits.
7. Participate in collaborative and cooperative learning.
8. Demonstrate self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning.
9. Show respect for individual abilities and diverse cultures.

CONTENT

The elements covered by the AP Psychology course and exams are:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| I. History and Approaches | VIII. Motivation and Emotion |
| II. Research Methods | IX. Developmental Psychology |
| III. Biological Basis for Behavior | X. Personality |
| IV. Sensation and Perception | XI. Testing and Individual Differences |
| V. States of Consciousness | XII. Abnormal Psychology |
| VI. Learning | XIII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders |
| VII. Cognition | XIV. Social Psychology |

(The College Board: "Advanced Placement Course Description: Psychology" May 2008, May 2009.)

NOTEBOOK

You are encouraged to have a binder for the notes, handouts, and returned homework. You should take daily notes on class discussions and assigned readings. Handouts should be marked up in a prescribed manner. Notes may be taken in your textbook, if you own it.

IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE

What you do in class on a day-to day-basis is the foundation for the learning that should occur in this course. This includes your participation in discussions and group activities, you sharing your perceptions and questions and criticisms, and your attentiveness to the task at hand and to

what others are saying. Come to class ready to participate. Involvement and initiative are critical elements for success in an advanced placement course. See attached rubric for detail

HOMework ASSIGNMENTS

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. It is due at the beginning of class. All written assignments should be word-processed, with 12-point font, spell checked, and documented. Assignments and some handouts will be posted on our webpages. Summer work has already been assigned.

TESTS and QUIZZES

All tests and some quizzes will be announced ahead of time.

EXAMS

There will be a 1st semester exam in January and a 2nd semester exam at the end of April. Everyone is expected to take the two-hour AP Psychology exam in May. The AP exam costs about \$84.00, due to Guidance by Thanksgiving. After the AP exam, you will work on projects.

GRADING

The *approximate* weighting of the grades will be as follows:

QUARTER GRADE

20% In-class Performance
30% Homework and Writing Assignments
50% Tests and Quizzes

SEMESTER GRADE:

1 st and 2nd Quarter	45%
3 rd Quarter	55%
4 th Quarter	35%
Examination	10%

ABSENCES

Clearly, the conversations and productive discussion that take place when a student is absent cannot be "made up." When you have been absent you have the responsibility to find out what was done in class, including the handouts distributed, and homework and tests announced.

SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS

I encourage you to work together and talk about the homework. Each person should contribute ideas because sharing thoughts and learning from one another is one way all continue to learn throughout life. Any writing, however, must be your own.

TEXTS and MATERIALS

Myers, David, Psychology, (7^h ed.), New York, Worth, 2004, Website: www.worthpublishers.com/myers. (Many students purchase the textbook new for \$95.00 or used for much less.) Articles from video clips from the series "The Brain," "The Mind," and "Scientific American Frontiers," and PBS, etc., are used to integrate learning.

AVAILABILITY OF HELP

I am available for help almost every day. Come see me and I will schedule a time to meet.

James F. Chace, Jr.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date