

AP Psychology Course Syllabus

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Synopsis of Course

AP Psychology is an entry-level college psychology course. It will serve two practical foci. It is academic in orientation culminating with an AP exam in mid May. It is also functional in orientation allowing students opportunity to give personal application to the content of the course. Through the development of critical thinking, and upon the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. define and explain at least four approaches to psychology
2. perform scientific research and apply the scientific method to that research
3. define and explain the biological basis of behavior
4. explain the relationship between sensation and perception and the processes within each relationship
5. define and explain the various states of consciousness
6. define and explain at least four learning theories
7. explain cognition and how memory, language, and thinking are related
8. define and explain at least four theories of motivation and emotion
9. explain the developmental process from birth through death
10. define personality and discuss its various theories and assessment techniques
11. identify at least five common disorders and discuss possible causes and treatments
12. define standardization and norms and use spreadsheets (Excel) to graph the results
13. define social psychology and group dynamics

Materials / Supplies / Textbook Policy

The materials needed are a pen, paper, and a 3-ring binder to keep handouts, notes, research, experiments, quizzes and personal journals (responses to various topics, ideas, and personal insights). The textbook for this year is Psychology (Eighth Edition) by David G. Myers.

Course Assignments

The following assignments constitute the majority of the AP Psychology course. It is *your* responsibility to continually track these assignments and turn them in according to the proposed timeline. Failing to do so will have a negative impact on your grade.

1. There will be *two* major research projects for this course.
 - a. **First Semester** - select one of the major contributors to psychology from the list provided and follow instructions for [APA format writing techniques](#). The paper should be 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced, and 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. A form will be handed to you giving more detailed instruction.
 - b. **Second Semester** - select any topic relating to psychology based on the subjects covered in the text. As above the format will be the same.
 - c. Project papers are worth **200** points each.
2. **Web Research** - each student is responsible to find one article from each chapter in the book that reflects the topic of that chapter. A printout of the article can be submitted for credit.
3. **AP Psychology Notebook** - this is a collection of handouts, notes, quizzes, papers, and reflections.
4. **Tests** - one test per chapter. Each test will reflect the style of the AP Exam and will be timed. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and essay. All tests are valued at 100 points each.

5. **Projects and Lab Activities** – Provides students with hands-on experiments that demonstrate basic psychological concepts and insights. Students will learn the scientific method, basic laboratory techniques, and major concepts.
6. **This class is highly interactive.** There will be various written assignments and in-class activities. Come prepared to discuss and interact with classmates on the topic at hand. Points will be deducted for lack of response or engagement in the activity. Please come prepared to challenge your own thinking and self-discovery.

Grading Policy

Grades are based primarily on completion of assignments. Weekly goals will be set and successful completion of those goals rewarded. Classroom attitude and attendance do affect academics, as well as citizenship. Quality and quantity of computer work completed are both essential. This course is project based and graded accordingly. Students who pass the AP Exam will receive college credit as well.

Weighted Grading Scale:

Tests and Research	55%
Daily / Participation	25%
Final Exam	20%

Make-up Policy

Make-up is limited to the amount of days which have been missed added to the date of return. Please be sure to communicate about sickness or extended leaves. This is a student responsibility, **NOT** the instructors.

Homework Policy

Assignments are due according to the assignment schedule. This course demands a lot of reading and note taking. Assignments are due on the due date. Late assignments may reduce your grade dramatically.

Citizenship Expectations

I expect each student to be in class with a positive mental attitude ready for the activities of the class. The tardy and truancy policies of Edmond Memorial are enforced in all courses. Students are expected to do *what is right* at all times and to exhibit the following behavior:

- * Remain on task
- * Assists others
- * Participate in interactive discussion
- * Be a true asset to the class

General Policies and Procedures

- **Class Dismissal** is done by the instructor **NOT** the bell. Please remain in your seat until the instructor dismisses you.
- **Passes** are to be issued on an as needed basis.
- **Respect for Diversity** is essential in my class. I do not personally agree with everyone's ideas or values, but I respect your right to hold those views and values. You can challenge ideas but you cannot attack the owners of those ideas. This will be a very open class, let's make it safe to share.

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Please return this Student-Parent-Teacher contract with appropriate signatures

We have read and agree with the Course Syllabus, the Proposed Course Schedule, and the Assignments for AP Psychology at Edmond Memorial High School.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone: day/evening

E-mail address (list all that apply)