Metro Academic and Classical High School

AP Psychology

2019-2020

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Office Time: 3rd and 6th periods

Room Number: 123

**Textbook and Resources**

Ciccarelli and White, Psychology AP Edition, 2/e (Pearson, 2011)

Hock, 40 Studies that Changed Psychology 5/e (Pearson, 2005)

Readings and Handouts

3 or 5-subject spiral notebook or binder

**Optional (for purchase):** AP Psychology Study Guide or Resources (Barron’s, Princeton Review, Varsity Tutors…etc.)

**Recommended Study Resources**:

\*Princeton Review, Cracking the AP Psychology Exam, 2014-2018 editions

\* Barrons, AP Psychology Flashcards (3rd Edition)

\*Some of these resources are available to be checked out by Mrs.Eplin on a first come, first serve basis

Course Description:

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 will be provided with a critical overview of the study of psychology, focusing on the theories and research methods used in psychological science and practice. Because psychology is a fascinating course, it is possible to explore the field using a variety of methods. The course information will be presented through lectures, class participation activities, demonstrations, and audio-visual aids. Students will use the textbook and other resources such as the internet, popular media, newspapers and professional Psychological publications in order to conduct research throughout the year. Students will learn about the methods and ethical approaches of professional psychology.

You are to be commended for taking on the challenge of a college-level course during the school year. If the effort is put in, the rewards can be significant. It is my goal to create a level of understanding and interest in psychology that will benefit you in this class and the rest of your college level classes.

Course Objectives:

Throughout the timeline of this course AP Psychology Students will:

-Study the history and major core concepts and theories of psychology, and be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary;

-Learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives;

-Recognize psychological principles when they encounter them in everyday situations;

-Assess some of the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives;

-Develop and build reading comprehension and fluency skills, critical thinking and writing skills, and discussion and presentation skills.

**Curriculum and Topics:**

In preparation for the AP exam, we will explore a variety of topics in psychology. The AP Psychology Exam reflects these distributions through multiple choice questions and free response essay questions:

Unit 1: History and Approaches (2-4%) and Research Methods (6-8%)

Unit 2: Biological Basis of Behavior (8-10%)

Unit 3: Sensation and Perception (7-9%)

Unit 4: States of Consciousness (2-4%)

Unit 5: Learning, Cognition and Memory (7-8%)

Unit 6: Motivation and Emotion (7-9%)

Unit 7: Developmental Psychology (7-9%)

Unit 8: Personality (6-8%)

Unit 9: Abnormal Psychology (7-9%)

Unit 10: Treatment of Psychological Disorders (5-7%)

Unit 11: Social Psychology (7-9%)

Rules and Expectations:

* Attendance: Students are expected to be in class, on time every day. Reading quizzes will be given daily at the start of class. Students must take the quiz at the beginning of class or make it up within 24 hours. Chronic tardiness will result in a deduction of points from the student’s daily participation grade. Student will not be able to make up for work missed due to an unexcused tardy or absence. Students who enter class after 10 minutes, no matter the period will be marked as tardy
* Make up Policy: Students will be permitted to miss up missed work, tests or quizzes when they have an excused absence; however, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what work was missed. Student will need to schedule time outside of regular class time to make up any tests or quizzes. This make up time must be arranged in advance with the teacher. No makeup work will be given for unexcused absences. (This includes when students show up to class and leave without permission before the end of the period)
* Late Work: Late work policy differs based on the type of assignment. Notebooks (which consist of the majority of classwork and homework will NOT be accepted late and should be turned in at the beginning of class on unit test day. Notebooks not turned in BEFORE class on test day will automatically be deducted 50%. If student is absent, they must arrange to take the test and turn in the notebook outside of class.
  + For other coursework, projects, homework, vocabulary, etc…late work will be subject to a 10% deduction after the beginning of the period with a one-week limit. Students will be allowed to turn in 1 unit project up to 5 days (1 week) late for no penalty (This does not apply to notebooks or vocabulary assignments) and students must complete a reflection sheet to explain why the work was not ready on its assigned due date.
  + NO late work will be accepted after the unit test has been given (For example, a student may not turn in missing/late work from chapter 7 after the unit test has been given for chapter 7)
* Cheating and Plagiarism: Anyone found cheating or collaborating with a cheater on any assignment (test, quiz, project research paper, essay, book report, etc.) will be given a 0 (F) for that assignment and a conference will be set up including the student, a parent, and the principal. If caught cheating, the assignment will not be made up for credit, and the zero will be computed into the grade for that class. This incident will be recorded and applied to the student’s permanent record. If any electronic device (cell phone, IPad, pager, mp3 player etc.) is found on the student during an assessment it will automatically be treated the same as a plagiarism incident.
* Classroom Behavior and Participation: Active participation and discussion is a crucial park of being successful in this course. Students are expected to be active and engaged listeners when the teacher or their fellow classmates are talking. Cell phone (or any electronic device) use or talking out of turn during lecture notes, class discussions or classwork time (without specific instruction otherwise) is not permitted. When speaking with our classmates or teacher, we are expected to use respectful, professional and academic language at all times. Failure to comply can result in a loss of participation points for the class day.

* Technology/Cell Phones: Technology is an extremely useful tool in the classroom and throughout the semester, we will be incorporating technology such as tablets, cell phones and laptops into the daily lesson. However, students should respect the classroom rules around use of technology which include, not using cell phone during classroom lecture, notes, instruction, tests or quizzes, visiting only school/course appropriate websites (only when instructed/permitted) and refraining from using headphones during class (except during independent work). Students may bring their own devices to class and often will be expected to do so, however if classroom norms regarding technology cannot be followed, access to technology can be restricted/prohibited at the teacher’s discretion. (This includes confiscation of devices that are being used inappropriately)

Grading:

Because AP Psychology is an advanced level course, designed to prepare students for a rigourous AP exam, weights will be applied to work completed in the course, with the highest weights being determined by student performance on standards based assessments (tests and projects)

All of the work in AP Psychology is designed to best prepare students for the AP exam, weighting assignments is designed to provide students with an accurate picture of their course as well as help them predict their AP test performance, while also providing alternative options for students who perform poorly on standard assessments.

Types of assignments in this course will include tests, Unit projects (group and individual options), daily quizzes over reading assignments, varied homework assignments (reading, article reviews, practice), participation in class discussions, and in class practice. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the subject matter as well as the quality and clarity of their writing.

\*Weights and point values will vary based on type of assignment; however, the standard point values are as followed

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| **Type of Assignment** | **Weight/ Typical Point Value** |
| **Unit Tests** | 40% /100-250 points |
| **Unit Projects** | 25%/ 50-200 points |
| **Vocabulary (Cards, Notebooks, Quizlets)** | 10%/ 50-75 points |
| **Daily Reading Quizzes** | 10%/ 8-12 points |
| **Notebook/Notebook Checks (Coursework and HW for an entire unit** | 10%/ 200-250 points |
| **General Coursework/Homework (non-notebook)** | 5% / 10-25 points |

Grades for the course will be computed as followed:

100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% and under = F

Course Components:

* Notebooks: The notebook in this course is crucial to student success, and will make up a majority of non-assessment points for the class. Notebooks will contain a variety of activities, including, but not limited to; lecture and reading notes, video questions, reflection questions, article reviews, practice quizzes and FRQ’s. Notebooks are always due on the date of the test and a notebook check sheet will be posted 1 week before the exam. It is the student’s responsibility to keep their notebook up to date and their assignments/notes labeled and accessible. Late notebooks will NOT be accepted. Any notebooks turned in AFTER the unit test (including after the class period/same date) are subject to a 50% deduction. Electronic notebooks of any types (including typed notes) will NOT be accepted.
* Daily Reading Quizzes: Because of the breadth of content to be covered in this Advanced Placement Level Course, students should expect to be assigned nightly reading. Multiple choice reading quizzes over the assigned content will be given at the beginning of each day. Students who are tardy are expected to make up missed quizzes within 24 hours of the assigned quiz. No make-up quizzes will be given for unexcused absences (this includes if student leaves class and fails to return after the quiz)
* Vocabulary: As the AP psychology exam is heavily focused on psychological vocabulary, students will be required to complete a vocabulary exercise of their choice for each chapter using the method of their choice (notecards, composition notebook or quizlet). Vocabulary will always be due on the same day as the unit test, unless otherwise stated. Late vocabulary is subject to the same rules as other late coursework. Because psychological research emphasizes the importance of writing for improved recall, handwritten vocabulary is eligible for 100% credit for the assignment. Other electronic vocabulary is eligible for 85% or less credit.
  + Vocabulary Options:
    - Vocabulary Notecards: Eligible for 100% of credit
    - Vocabulary Notebook: Eligible for 100% of credit
    - Vocabulary Quizlet: Eligible for 85% credit
    - Typed Vocabulary: Eligible for 80% credit
* Unit Projects: In order to increase the depth of understanding of complex psychological concepts, students will be assigned a unit project at the beginning of each chapter. Most projects require several days of attention and vary greatly in difficulty. Projects may be group, partner or individual and will require time and research outside of the nightly reading expectation. If class time will be given for projects this will be designated on the unit reading guide. The teacher designates the right to revoke in class time for projects in the event that students are not using classtime effectively.
* Practice FRQ’s: The FRQ (Free Response Question) is a critical component of the AP Psychology test, students will be asked to practice FRQ style writing throughout the semester. Students will also be expected to read and assess FRQ’s of other classmates. These FRQ’s may be done either in class or as homework.
* General Classwork: Students will do a variety of in class assignments to help better understand content covered in class, which ranges from video questions, scavenger hunts, games, labs and many other types of assignments. Completion of these in class assignments will be factored into student’s overall grade.
* Unit Tests: Students will be given an AP style assessment (50 MC and 1 FRQ) generally at the conclusion of every 1 or 2 units depending on length and complexity. Review days and study guides will be offered before the test and available on the course website. Re-takes are not permitted; however, students may do test-corrections to earn points back on their test using the 4-step method. Test corrections must be scheduled with Mrs. Eplin as I do not allow tests to leave the classroom.

Responsibility:

Students acknowledge that while all stakeholders in the school (teachers, parents, and administrators) need to support the academic, emotional, and physical needs of the students, the student’s grades are a reflection of both their academic achievement and work ethic; and therefore, the student is responsible for the grade they receive.

Please sign and return bottom of this syllabus. By signing you are acknowledging that you have read the information provided and agree to the course outline and policies presented above.

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