

Ledyard High School
24 Gallup Hill Road
Ledyard CT. 06339

AP Psychology

Course Audit

Daniel Mello
Eric Van Frachen

AP Psychology Syllabus:

The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human being and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology.

Course Objectives:

- Students will learn about the major core concepts and theories in psychology
- Students will understand the some of the different approaches adopted by psychologist, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives
- Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills through written and oral expression.
- Students will prepare for the advanced placement examination in psychology.

Textbook:

Wheaton, Wayne *Psychology Themes & Variations*, seventh edition California: Knight, 2007.

Additional Resources:

Brink, Martin *Featured Studies Reader for Psychology Themes & Variations*, California: Wheaton, 2007.

Teacher Resources:

N/A

Homework Expectations:

Being a college level course, homework will be given every night. The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in class. Ample notice will be given prior to any assignment, quiz, or exam. Throughout the year students will be expected to do outside research and projects in addition to regular homework assignments. In the event of a missed class the student is responsible for any missed work.

Supplemental & Summer Reading:

There will be summer reading and assignments that each student is responsible for completing before the first class.

Grading Policy:

- Grading will be based on a total points system. Each assignment and assessment will be weighted appropriately. Usually a test will be worth between 100 to 200 points, and a homework assignment will be worth around 10 to 20 points. In order to assess your grade you will take total points earned and divide it by the total possible points.

Course outline:**Unit One: Evolution of Psychology**

- A new science is born
- Structuralism V. functionalism
- Modern Approaches: Psychodynamic, Behaviorist, Cognitive, Humanistic, Evolutionary, Neuroscience
- Psychology today: Vigorous and diversified
- Nature of scientific inquiry: sources of bias and error
- Research methods: Introspection, Observation, Survey, Psychological testing, Controlled experiments
- Personal applications: developing sound study habit, improving your reading, getting more out of lectures, and improving test taking strategies.

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter One*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter One: No Reading for Chapter One

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Two: Research in Psychology

- Scientific approach to behavior
- Experimental research
- The emotional fallout of expected and unexpected outcomes
- Looking for links: descriptive/ correlational research
- Looking for conclusions: statistics and research

- Looking for flaws: evaluating research
- Looking at ethics: Do ends justify the means?
- Personal application finding reading and journal articles: nature of technical journals, finding journal articles, and reading journal articles
- Critical thinking: peril of anecdotal evidence

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Two*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Two: The affective consequences of expected and unexpected outcomes

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Three: Biological basis of behavior

- Communications in the nervous system
- Organization in the nervous system
- Looking inside the brain: Research methods
- The brain and behavior
- Right brain/ Left brain: Cerebral Laterality
- The Endocrine System: Another way to communicate
- Heredity and behavior: Is it all in the genes?
- The evolutionary bases of behavior

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Three*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Three: Men and women differ in amygdale response to visual sexual stimuli

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Four: Sensation and Perception

- Psychophysics: Basic concepts and Issues
- Our sense of Sight: The Visual System
- Our Sense of Hearing: The Auditory System
- Our Chemical Senses: Taste and Smell
- Our sense of touch: Sensory systems in the skin
- Other Senses: Kinesthetic, Vestibular
- Personal Application: Appreciation Art and Illusion

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Four*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Four: Perceiving geographic slant

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Five: Variations in Consciousness

- On the Nature of Consciousness
- Biological Rhythms and Sleep
- The Sleep and Waking Cycle
- The World of Dreams
- Hypnosis: Altered Consciousness or Role Playing?
- Meditation: Pure Consciousness or Relaxation?
- Altering Consciousness with Drugs
- Personal Application: Addressing Practical Questions About Sleep and Dreams
- Critical Thinking Application: Is Alcoholism a Disease? The Power of Definitions

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Five*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Five: How sleep deprivation affects psychological variables related to college students' cognitive performance

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Six: Learning

- Classical Conditioning
- Operant Conditioning
- Changing Directions in the Study of Conditioning
- Observational Learning
- Personal Application: Achieving Self-Control Through Behavior Modification
- Critical Thinking Application: Manipulating Emotions- Pavlov and Persuasion

Readings:

Text; *Themes and Variations: Chapter Six*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Six: Vicarious reinforcement and imitative learning

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit Seven: Human Memory

- Encoding: Getting Information into Memory
- Storage: Maintaining Information in Memory
- Retrieval: Getting Information out of Memory
- Forgetting: When Memory Lapses
- In Search of the Memory Trace: The Physiology of Memory
- Systems and Types of Memory
- Personal Application: Improving Everyday Memory
- Critical Thinking Application: Understanding the Fallibility of Eyewitness Accounts

Readings:

Text; *Themes and Variations: Chapter Seven*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Seven: Confidence, no consistency, characterizes flashbulb memories
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Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 8: Language and Thought

- Language: Turning Thoughts into Words
- Problem Solving: In Search of Solutions
- Decision Making: Choices and Chances
- Personal Application: Understanding Pitfalls in Reasoning About Decisions
- Critical Thinking Application: Shaping Thought with Language- "Only a Naive Moron Would Believe That"

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Eight*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Eight: The alternative-outcomes effect

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 9: Intelligence and Psychological Testing

- Key Concepts in Psychological Testing
- The Evolution of Intelligence Testing
- Basic Questions About Intelligence Testing
- Extremes of Intelligence
- Heredity and Environment as Determinants of Intelligence
- New Directions in the Assessment and Study of Intelligence
- Personal Application: Understanding Creativity
- Critical Thinking Application: The Intelligence Debate, Appeals to Ignorance, and Reification

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Nine*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Nine: Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African Americans

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 10: Motivation and Emotion

- Motivational Theories and concepts
- The Motivation of Hunger and Eating
- Sexual Motivation and Behavior
- Achievement: In Search of Excellence
- The Elements of Emotional Experience
- Theories of Emotion
- Personal Application: Exploring the Ingredients of Happiness
- Critical Thinking Application: Analyzing Arguments- Making Sense out of Controversy

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Ten*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Ten: Sex differences in human mate preferences: Evolutionary hypotheses tested in 37 cultures

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 11: Human Development Across the Life Span

- Progress Before Birth: Prenatal Development
- The Wondrous Years of Childhood
- The Transition of Adolescence
- The Expanse of Adulthood
- Personal Application: Understanding Gender Differences
- Critical Thinking Application: Are Fathers Essential to Children's Well-Being?

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Eleven*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Eleven: Large-number addition and subtraction by 9-month-old infants

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 12: Personality- Theory, Research, and Assessment

- The Nature of Personality
- Psychodynamic Perspectives
- Behavioral Perspectives
- Humanistic Perspectives
- Biological Perspectives
- A Contemporary Empirical Approach: Terror Management Theory
- Culture and Personality
- Personal Application: Understanding Personality Assessment
- Critical Thinking Application: Hindsight in Everyday Analyses of Personality

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Twelve*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Twelve: A room with cue: Personality judgments based on offices and bedrooms

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 13: Stress, Coping, and Health

- The Nature of Stress
- Responding to Stress
- The Effects of Stress on Psychological Functioning
- The Effects of Stress on Physical health
- Factors Moderating the Impact of Stress

- Health-Impairing Behavior
- Reactions to Illness
- Personal Application: Improving Coping and Stress Management
- Critical Thinking Application: Thinking Rationally About Health Statistics and Decisions

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Thirteen*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Thirteen: Depression and cardiac mortality: Results from a community-based longitudinal study

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 14: Psychological Disorders

- Abnormal Behavior: Myths, Realities, and Controversies
- Anxiety Disorders
- Somatoform Disorders
- Dissociative Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Schizophrenic Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Psychological Disorders and the Law
- Culture and Pathology
- Personal Application: Understanding Eating Disorders
- Critical Thinking Application: Working with Probabilities in Thinking About Mental Illness

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Fourteen*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Fourteen: Depressogenic cognitive styles: Predictive validity, information processing and personality characteristics, and developmental origins

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 15: Treatment of Psychological Disorders

- The Elements of the Treatment Process
- Insight Therapies
- Behavior Therapies
- Biomedical Therapies
- Current trends and Issues in the Treatment
- Institutional Treatment in Transition
- Personal Application: Looking for a Therapist
- Critical Thinking Application: From Crisis to Wellness- But Was It the Therapy?

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Fifteen*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Fifteen: Nortriptyline and interpersonal psychotherapy as maintenance therapies for recurrent major depression: A randomized controlled trial in patients older than 59 years

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay

Unit 16: Social Behavior

- Person Perception: Forming Impressions of Others
- Attribution Processes: Explaining Behavior
- Close Relationships: Liking and Loving
- Attitudes: Making Social Judgments
- Conformity and Obedience: Yielding to Others
- Behavior in Groups: Joining with Others
- Personal Application: Understanding Prejudice
- Critical Thinking Application: Whom Can You Trust? Analyzing credibility and Influence Tactics

Readings:

Text: *Themes and Variations: Chapter Sixteen*

- Additional Readings and Handouts
- Featured Reading Studies - Chapter Sixteen: Behavioral study of obedience

Sample Assignments/Assessments:

- Read and outline chapter or complete question worksheets
- Chapter Quizzes
- Unit Test: multiple choice and essay