
Advanced Placement Psychology



Berean Christian High School

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Course Description:

AP Psychology is a challenging course that is similar to a college course. Students can potentially earn college credit if they score well on the AP Exam in May. It is a course 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” (*Advanced Placement Course Description in Psychology*). Areas of study for this course include personality development, emotional development, mental health, parenting principles, psychoanalysis, learning, family and social relationships, communication, systems of fundamental psychology, and a systematic integration of biblical principles to human behavior and cognition. Students will learn to write concisely and effectively within the parameters of the College Board so that they may complete the Free Response Question section of the AP Exam. A variety of activities, demonstrations, and projects will be utilized in this course.

Mission Statement:

Berean Christian High School is dedicated to providing a quality, Bible-centered education to develop lifetime followers of Christ.

Texts:

Psychology for AP, David G. Myers

Psychology Through the Eyes of Faith,
David G. Myers and Malcolm A. Jeeves

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work 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 learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
4. Students will develop critical thinking skills.
5. Students will apply a biblical understanding to the aspects of human psychology.

Course Outline and Requirements:

- I. Introduction to Psychology and Cognition
 - Psychology's History and Approaches (Unit 1)
 - Memory (Unit 7A)
 - Thinking, Problem Solving, Creativity, and Language (Unit 7B)
 - II. Research Methods and Learning
 - Research Methods (Unit 2)
 - Learning (Unit 6)
 - III. Biological Bases of Behavior
 - Neural Processing and the Endocrine System (Unit 3A)
 - The Brain (Unit 3B)
 - Genetics, Evolutionary Psychology, and Behavior (Unit 3C)
 - IV. Experiencing the World
 - Sensation and Perception (Unit 4)
 - ***First Semester Final (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7) on Monday, December 16th*****
 - V. Development over the Life Span
 - Developmental Psychology (Unit 9)
 - VI. Motivation and Emotion
 - Motivation (Unit 8A)
 - Emotions, Stress, and Health (Unit 8B)
 - VII. Awareness of the World
 - States of Consciousness (Unit 5)
 - VIII. Personality, Individuals, and Society
 - Personality (Unit 10)
 - Testing and Individual Differences (Unit 11)
 - Social Psychology (Unit 14)
 - IX. Neurological Disorders
 - Abnormal Psychology (Unit 12)
 - Treatments of Psychological Disorders (Unit 13)
- ***AP Test Review***
- ***AP Psychology Test on Tuesday, May 12th*****

Final Exam will be administered prior to the AP Test as part of the test review.

Students will be assigned one major project (and usually one minor project) each quarter.

Grading:

Evaluation Procedure	Percent Distribution
Notebook (Homework and Classwork)	25%
Quizzes/Activities/Journals	25%
Tests	25%
Projects	25%

Class Policies:

Please see the instructor as soon as possible if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies.

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class every day. If you are unable to attend, it is **your responsibility** to get and complete the class work and homework. Late work due to an excused absence will be accepted based on the guidelines in the BCHS Student Handbook.
2. Tardiness: Students are expected to be in their seats with the necessary materials for the day **and their phones in the cell phone caddy** when the bell rings. Cell phones **MUST** be in the student's assigned cell phone caddy spot, with the screen facing out, from bell to bell. If a student's phone is not in his or her assigned spot when the bell rings for class to start, the student will be marked "tardy." The opening assignment will be written on the board or handed out at the door, and students should begin promptly. If this is not adhered to, students will be considered tardy.
3. Late Work: Late assignments lose 10% each day they are late. Students will be allowed to hand in one late assignment one day late per quarter with no grade penalty. No late assignments will be accepted during the last week of the quarter. I reserve the right to grade all late assignments together at the end of the quarter. As a result, students may not know their grade on a late assignment until the very end of the quarter.
4. Extra Credit: As per College Board's policy for AP courses, no extra credit will be offered.
5. Student Conduct: The rules for student conduct in class will be consistent with those outlined within the BCHS Student Handbook. This course includes some sensitive material. Students are expected to act with objectivity and maturity, being sensitive to the opinions expressed by their classmates and instructor. Put downs and bullying will not be tolerated.
6. Cheating/Plagiarism: In this new information world, the idea of what is considered cheating is changing. With the use of the ipad, students need to use discretion about what could be considered cheating, copying, inappropriately borrowing, or plagiarizing. As teachers, we cannot possibly outline all of the ways that technology can be used inappropriately. Therefore I must rely on the student and parent to use their Christian discretion about what is appropriate and inappropriate. If students are caught crossing reasonable technological boundaries, then there will be serious consequences. The student will receive a zero, I will notify the deans, and demerits will be given. Similarly, if I see a cell phone or ipad during a test, I have to assume the student is cheating, and he or she will receive a zero.
7. Technology: Students are to leave their phones in the cell phone caddy and their ipads in their backpacks during class. Although ipads are not used in class on most days, students need to bring them so that they are ready for review. Improper use of the ipad during class will not be tolerated. The ipad camera and recorder are not to be used in class during anytime unless you have received personal approval from the teacher. This includes taking pictures, recording or filming the teacher, the classroom, and classmates without permission from the teacher. Additionally, students should not be using the internet or any other

apps or sites unless they directly pertain to the topic and were given permission to use them.

8. Restroom: Students are expected to use the restroom before or after class.

9. Food, Drinks, and Gum: As per the BCHS Student Handbook, students will not be allowed to eat, drink, or chew gum during the class period. Water is allowed (and highly encouraged!).

10. All AP Psychology students are expected to take the AP Exam.

11. The information included in this syllabus is subject to change as a result of extenuating circumstances or if deemed necessary by the instructor. Minor modifications are to be expected and are for the good of the class. Any changes will be announced as soon as possible.

School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the BCHS Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school.

Homework Expectations:

Students will receive a calendar before the beginning of each month. Homework assignments, test dates, and project due dates will all be on the calendar. The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in class. There are assigned pages to read in the textbook every night. Students are to take notes on the reading using the TDA (term, definition, application) format and include all notes in a three ring binder. If a student earns an "A" on a test, they will be excused from TDA for the following unit.

Assessment Expectations:

Vocabulary terms are given for each unit. Homework reading quizzes will be given each Friday (block day when Friday is a holiday) and will cover all of the reading for the week. The quizzes use multiple-choice questions. Exams will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of approximately 45 multiple-choice questions and one free-response question (simulating the AP Exam). If a student earns a "D" or an "F" on a test, he or she is required to complete test corrections. Students who earn a "C" are highly recommended to complete the test corrections. (See attached paper detailing test corrections.)

Other assignments given to students are class presentations, projects, devotions, journals, and in class activities/labs. These assignments vary with the unit being covered.

Tips for the Students:

1. Come to class excited to learn! Psychology is a fascinating subject, and we're going to have great discussions this year. Each student is a valuable member of this class. It is important that everyone attend and contribute. While many assignments can be made up due to absence, this will not replicate the dialogue and experiences missed during class.
2. Note taking is imperative to success in this class. Students are to collect all notes, handouts, etc. in a three ring binder that will be **organized according to a unit table of contents** and turned in on the day of each test to receive credit. Homework notes are to be taken each night using the TDA format (term, definition, application).
4. You will be able to access your grades on RenWeb. Please be sure to check frequently, and see me promptly if you believe there has been an error.
5. Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments must be typed and will be graded on spelling, grammar, and expression of ideas in addition to material content. As such, it is suggested that all students take their time when writing and allow themselves multiple opportunities to proofread and make any necessary corrections. **Papers must be written in MLA format.** Use the following website for instruction and examples:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>
6. I am a psychology teacher and not a psychologist. This class is about studying the subject of psychology, not a therapy session. While I want you to bring your real life applications to the subject matter, please keep in mind that information you share in class is not confidential and that the purpose of class time is to learn the subject matter and prepare for the AP Test. We are not going to diagnose you, your friends, your family, or anyone else. It is my desire that your understanding of God, yourself, and others will grow through this course and that you will become a better communicator and more well-rounded individual.
7. If you have a question, please ask. I'm happy to help during lunch, and I do my best to respond promptly to emails.

AP Psychology Test Corrections

Exams will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of approximately 45 multiple-choice questions and one free-response question (simulating the AP Exam). If a student earns a “D” or an “F” on a test, he or she is required to complete test corrections. Students who earn a “C” are highly recommended to complete the test corrections. Students who earn an “A” or “B” are exempt from test corrections.

For each multiple choice question that you got wrong, look up the correct answer and then HAND WRITE the question and the correct answer. Then HIGHLIGHT the letter of the correct answer and give an explanation of WHY this answer is correct. It should look like this:

5. Which of the following refers to a physiological state that usually triggers a state of motivational arousal? **a)** need
Human needs (like hunger) are physiological states that arouse us and cause us to seek fulfillment (like food) for that need.

For each correct answer, you will receive an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point on the MCQ portion of the test.

Corrections, along with all original test papers, must be turned in one week from the date the corrected test is returned.

Please note: No corrections will be made to the FRQ portion of the test, although I highly recommend that you look over the grading rubric for the FRQ and know why you missed points.

AP Psychology Syllabus Signature Page Highlights:

- AP Psychology is a fun, but rigorous course.
- Grading will be based on performance, not effort.
- Cheating and plagiarism will receive swift and serious consequences.
- Inappropriate use of the ipad will receive swift and serious consequences.
- Cell phones must be in the caddy from bell to bell, and ipads must be in the student's backpack from bell to bell (unless otherwise stated by the instructor). Students will be marked "tardy" if the bell rings and the cell phone is not in the assigned spot.
- Reading and taking notes are essential elements to AP Psychology.
- Students are responsible for making up work in a timely fashion when absent.
- Students are responsible for checking with the instructor for homework or items missed during an absence.
- Students may turn in one late assignment per quarter one day late without a grade deduction. All other late work will lose 10% of its value per day late.
- There is no extra credit in AP Psychology.
- Punctuality is critical.
- A teachable spirit and attitude are necessary for success.

I have read, understood, and will abide by all of the provisions of the entire AP Psychology syllabus.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Period

Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date