

# AP Psychology Syllabus

Ms. Melissa Smith

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This is a semester long course in psychology consisting of two 9 weeks, that prepare students for the Advanced Placement Psychology exam.

## Course Objective

AP Psychology is 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. Students will also learn about the methods psychologists use in their service and practice.

## Course Characteristics

1. This is a college-level course. College level attitudes, work habits and products are expected of all students
2. This class requires more reading than the typical high school class. Students who want to do well must complete all outside readings and assignments on time.
3. Class time is important. Students who want to do well must attend and participate in class regularly.
4. Evaluations (grades) are based on the mastery of the material.
5. Learning is ultimately the responsibility of the student. In an AP course, students are expected to be interested in their own learning and willing to devote the time necessary to explore the course content as fully as possible.

AP Psychology is a fun, exciting and intriguing class. Be prepared to think and be challenged each day. Your success and the success of this class depend on your attitude.

## Textbook

Myers, David G. *Psychology*, 11th ed. New York: Worth, 2014

Teacher Resources

Bolt, Martin. *Instructor's Resource Manual*. New York: Worth, 2014

## Supplies

- Note book with dividers(all classes)
- 4th period (Markers Only)
- Blue/black pen, pencils, highlighters(all classes)
- 5th period (Map Pencils only)

## Homework

The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in the class. There will be assigned reading every night. Vocabulary will be given for each unit in addition to any other assignment necessary to instruct students on the unit.

**HOMEWORK POLICY:** Homework assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. I will not accept homework after the deadline date.

Students who are in school on the day that homework is due and need to leave prior to class should turn in the assignment prior to leaving whenever possible.

### **ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK/ASSISTANCE:**

I will distribute to you any assignment you missed when absent upon your return to class. Assignments will be accepted late per FBISD policy with an excused absence.

I am available to students before and after school. I would ask that you communicate with me ahead of time whenever possible to ensure my availability due to other possible obligations.

### **AP Exam**

The national AP Psychology exam consists of 2 sections. Section I is 1 hour and 10 minutes for 100 multiple-choice questions. Section II is 50 minutes for 2 free response questions. Class exams will replicate the national AP exam, which is given in May.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

This applies to both written work and oral presentations. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized text, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students using fraud, duress deception, theft, trickery, talking, signs, gestures, copying, or any other methodology. Assignments deemed academically dishonest will receive a grade of 0.

*PLAGIARISM:* Submitting or presenting another person's work as your own without proper documentation, including downloaded information from the Internet and lab data.

*CHEATING:* Giving or receiving information during a test, quiz, and/or class work assignment without teacher authorization; using hand signals, gestures, and the like during tests or quizzes to obtain/give information; using unauthorized materials during a test or quiz.

### **Reading and Writing**

It is vital for success in this course to complete all assigned readings. Both outside reading (including novels, journals and articles) and extensive writing are required as part of the course. We will read many primary source documents. In addition, as part of the course requirements, frequent writing, in various formats including document-based essays, journals and comparative essays will occur.

### **Extra Credit/Optional Assignments**

Students will have the opportunity to complete alternative assignments that will replace missing or low daily grades throughout the nine weeks grading period.

### **Test and Quiz Grades**

All students who score lower than a 75 on a major grade test have an opportunity to raise that grade to a 75 within one week. Specific details will be explained in a separate letter to be sent later.

### **Tips for Doing Well in AP Psychology**

- ***Take complete class notes and date them.*** Put them in your own words. Don't write down something you don't understand without asking about it. Leave some blank space on each page to make additions and clarifications. It is very important to review your class notes each day while they are still fresh in your mind. Expand them, clarify them, and add examples so that they will make sense when you go back to study from them later.
- ***Learn to read more effectively.*** You can read more effectively by doing the following:
  1. Preview a chapter quickly before you begin, and review the material frequently. Pause at the end of each paragraph and summarize mentally, in your own words, what you just read. Ask yourself, "What do I believe the main ideas of this chapter are going to be?"
  2. Do not try to read an entire chapter at once. Each chapter of your text is divided into several major sections. These sections are presented in bold print in the summary outline on the chapter's first page. Limit your reading to one of these sections at a sitting. You will soon start to see a connection between these sections and our daily classroom objectives.

3. Do not ignore pictures, diagrams, tables, and sidebars in your textbook. These features serve to make the text more interesting and may include important information.
  4. Take notes as you read. If you can condense a 30 page chapter to a few pages of good notes, it's going to be much easier to review when it comes time to study. Be sure to keep a list of questions about the reading.
- ***Half the battle is vocabulary.*** Please be sure the key terms and their definition/meaning are incorporated into your notes.
  - ***Pick a "study buddy" or form a study group.*** Each member of the class should pick a person or group that will assist them in preparation and review of the material in Psychology. This person or member of your group should be contacted when you are absent from class so that you can determine what material you missed and what the homework was.

### Classroom Expectations

- ✓ The student is expected to be in his/her seat with his/her when the tardy bell rings.
- ✓ The student is expected to be seated and listening when the instructor is speaking.
- ✓ The student is expected to be on task and engaged in classroom activities.
- ✓ The student is expected to raise their hand to speak in class.
- ✓ The student is expected to follow all school and classroom rules.

Please sign and return the bottom portion! ☺



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Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_