

# Syllabus: AP Psychology v11

Below is the syllabus for your course.

**Estimated Completion Time:** This AP Psychology course is scheduled for 2 semesters, completed within 32-36 weeks at the traditional pace.

## Description:

Welcome to Advanced Placement Psychology! AP Psychology is a year-long college level course providing students an overview of the development of human behaviors and thoughts. Along with preparation for the AP Psychology exam, the goals of this course are to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences. Psychology is a diverse social and biological science with multiple perspectives and interpretations, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. While every individual may not agree with every approach, a comprehensive introduction to psychology will expose the major theories so each individual may clarify their own eclectic perspective.

Content will include, but not be limited to, methods, biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, personality, testing for intelligence and personality, abnormal psychology, treatment of disorders, and social psychology. Course outline will adhere to the guidelines of the College Board.

In this yearlong course, students will be expected to understand objective, empirical methods of collecting and interpreting data, make meaningful interconnection between disparate concepts and analyze, evaluate and critique thematic perspectives. This college level course will expand your knowledge, challenge your mind and, at times, actually be entertaining! It will help you to better understand yourself and those around you.

## Module 1

Topics Covered:

- Psychology Defined: What is Psych?
- Psych History & Modern: Then and Now

- Descriptive Methods: How to Describe
- Correlations: Finding Relationships
- Experiments: Do I Need a Microscope?
- Experimental Hazards: The Road Bumps in Psychological Experiments
- Ethics: Can I Do This?

## **Module 2**

Topics Covered:

- The Neuron: The Building Blocks
- The Neurotransmitter & Psychoactive Drugs: The Instant Messenger of the Brain
- The Nervous System: The Body's "CPU"
- Studying the Brain: A Glimpse into the Unknown
- The Lower & Hindbrain: Where It All Begins
- The Cerebral Cortex: Livin' Life in the Gray Matter
- Discussion-Based Assessment—The Endocrine System

## **Module 3**

Topics Covered:

- Sensation: Do You Feel It?
- Vision & Hearing
- Other Senses: I Got a Feeling!
- Perception: Do You See What I See?
- Consciousness, Sleep & Dreams: Day Dream Believer
- Altered States of Consciousness
- Psychoactive Drugs: Taking a Virtual Trip

## **Module 4**

Topics Covered:

- Welcome to Developmental Psychology
- Human Development and Prenatal
- Infancy and Childhood, Cognition
- Infancy and Childhood, Social
- Sex and Gender
- Adolescence
- Adulthood

## **Module 5**

Topics Covered:

- Learning: How Do I Know What I Know?
- Classical Conditioning: Where did Pavlov Get His Bell?
- Operant Conditioning: The Mystery of the Skinner Box
- Schedules of Reinforcement: Training Pavlov's Dog
- Cognitive Learning: Training the Mind
- Observational Learning: Bandura's Bobo Doll

## **Module 6**

Topics Covered:

- Welcome to Module 6: An Elephant Never Forgets
- Memory and Models of Memory: Accessing the Data Bank
- Information Processing and Sensory Memory: What Was It I Just Saw?
- Short-Term and Long-Term Memory: Unforgettable... Stuck In Your Head
- Retrieval: Getting it Out of Storage
- Forgetting: I Can't Find My Keys
- Thinking: So that's what my big head is for!
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- Intelligence Testing: Construction Zone!

## **Module 7**

Topics Covered:

- Motivation: Different Strokes for Different Folks
- Hunger, Motivation & Eating Behaviors: Hungry, Again?
- Emotion: Feelings... Nothing more than Feelings
- Theories of Emotion: Why I Feel the Way I Do
- I/O Psychology: Psychology in the Workforce

## **Module 8**

Topics Covered:

- Welcome to Module 8 – Personality: No Two Keys are Alike!
- Personality: Who am I?
- Psychodynamic: The Man & the Couch

- Behaviorist & Social Cognitive Views: Do we have a pattern here?
- Humanistic View: May the Third Force be with You and only You!
- Trait Theory: Enduring?
- Behavioral Genetics: Is it Really in our Genes?
- Personality Assessment: What's the Method?

## **Module 9**

Topics Covered:

- Abnormal Psychology: There is No Such Thing as Average
- What is Abnormality?
- Anxiety, Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Personality Disorders
- Therapy & Humanistic Therapy
- Behavioral, Cognitive and Group Therapy
- Biomedical Approaches
- G.A.S.

## **Module 10**

Topics Covered:

- Social Psychology: Following the Leader!
- Social Influence: Such a Copycat!
- Attitudes & Attribution: Its all about your disposition!
- Social Interaction: Just get Along!
- Attraction: I Think I Love You!
- Aggression and Prosocial Behavior: Helping Hands

## **Module 11**

Topics Covered:

- Review for the AP Exam
- Methods & Neuroscience
- Sensation, Perception & States of Consciousness
- Developmental Psychology & Learning
- Memory, Cognition, Language & Intelligence
- Motivation & Emotion (Includes Collaborative Project Activity)

- Perspectives, Disorders, Therapies & Stress
- Social Psychology
- Segment 2 Exam