

AP PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS 2025-2026
OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

**NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE FOLLOWING
SYLLABUS IF DEEMED NECESSARY.**

Mr. Meyer - Room G-4
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of AP psychology is to introduce students to the studies of behavior and mental processes of humans and 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 and audio-visual aids. 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 this year. If the effort is put in, the rewards can be significant. Our goal is to create a level of understanding and interest in psychology that will benefit you in this class and the remainder of your college-level courses.

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Psychology for the AP Course - 4th Edition - Myers, Dewall and Hammer

CLASSROOM POLICIES

General Expectations:

Attendance is paramount to success in this class. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. When the bell rings to begin class, students must be seated and ready to be engaged in the material and topics of that class period. Students are also expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities and complete all assigned readings and other assignments.

Be polite and respect others' opinions and beliefs. Students are expected to follow the rules and procedures that are given on the first day of school.

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Violation of this policy will result in the student receiving zero credit on the assignment or test and possible administrative disciplinary action.

Grading:

Since our objective will be to prepare you for the national AP exam that is administered in May, your grade for each grading period will consist of college level multiple-choice exams, free response answers and daily activities. Grade will be determined by your performance on the tests, assignments and other classroom activities. The grade you earn at the end of the semester is the grade you will earn in the class.

Grading Criteria:

unit tests and final semester exams: 70% of semester grade

homework/classwork: 20% of the semester grade

participation/behavior: 10% of the semester grade

Grading Scale:

92.5% - 100% = A

89.5% - 92.4% = A-

82.5% - 89.4% = B

79.5% - 82.4% = B-

72.5% - 79.4% = C

69.5% - 72.4% = C-

62.5% - 69.4% = D

59.5% - 62.4% = D-

59.4% and below = F

Electronic Devices:

During class lectures/discussions/activities, **Devices Such as Chromebooks and laptops are not to be used (they must be put away).** These devices may only be used by students during the assigned classroom work time.

Cell phones must be turned in when taking role at the beginning of the period. Students will have access to their phones during the break at the end of each class day.

Make Up Policy:

All make-up exams must be completed **within one week (seven days) following an absence.**

Assignments will receive full credit only if they are complete and turned in when collected at the start of class on the due date. All late work will earn half credit if turned in one class period late. No work turned in past this point will be accepted for credit.

AP COURSE DEMANDS

The expectations for this class are consistent with those of any Advanced Placement course. Students should expect a workload similar to that of a college-level course. This will involve extensive reading every night, active participation in class discussions and activities, taking notes, etc.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

One of the goals of this course is to prepare you for the AP exam. The AP grade for college credit will be determined by taking the college board exam in May. **The test is two hours and 40 minutes long and consists of 75 multiple-choice questions and two free response questions.** A passing score will earn you college credit for the class at most colleges and universities.

Students are responsible for reading and studying the textbook. While much of the text will be discussed in class, some of it will be covered through independent learning. **Everything in the book has the possibility of being on the AP exam, so you are expected to study all of it.** Failure to read the entire text and supplemental reading will likely have a negative impact on your grade. Therefore, **keeping up with the daily reading is crucial for success in this course.**

Note Taking:

Keep a notebook or binder with all class notes. You are responsible for bringing your notebook or binder to every class.

PowerPoint Lecture Notes:

During class lecture/discussion, students will **NOT** have access to their Chromebooks. Therefore, **students should bring a printed copy of the PowerPoint lecture notes to class each day.** These notes will be posted on our Google Classroom page at the start of each unit.

FRQ (Free Response Question) Writing:

Students will be required to write FRQ answers in **dark blue or black ink** for all unit tests (the Scantron multiple-choice answers will be completed in **pencil**).

Videos:

Throughout the school year, students will be viewing a number of short videos, many of which will come from the YouTube channel **Crash Course Psychology** (most videos will be posted on the Google Classroom page).

Full-length feature films that **may** be used at the end of second semester include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

Inside Out, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Good Will Hunting

COURSE PLAN

This class conforms to the College Board topics for the Advanced Placement Introductory Psychology Examination and covers the following:

Unit 0: Research Methods and Data Interpretation

Module 0.1: The Scientific Attitude, Critical Thinking & Developing Arguments

Module 0.2: The Need for Psychological Science

Module 0.3: The Scientific Method

Module 0.4: Correlation & Experimentation

Module 0.5: Research Design & Ethics in Psychology

Module 0.6: Statistical Reasoning in Everyday Life

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior (15-25% of AP exam based on this unit)

Mod 1.1: Interaction of Heredity & Environment

Mod 1.2: Overview of the Nervous System

Mod 1.3a: The Neuron & Neural Firing: Neural Communication & Endocrine System

Mod 1.3b: Neuron & Neural Firing: Substance Use Disorders & Psychoactive Drugs

Mod 1.4a: The Brain: Neuroplasticity & Tools of Discovery

Mod 1.4b: The Brain: Brain Structures & Regions

Mod 1.4c: The Brain: Damage Response & Brain Hemispheres

Mod 1.5a: Sleep: Consciousness

Mod 1.5b: Sleep: Sleep Stages & Theories

Mod 1.5c: Sleep: Sleep Loss, Sleep Disorders & Dreams

Mod 1.6a: Sensation: Basic Concepts

Mod 1.6b: Sensation: Vision

Mod 1.6c: Sensation: Hearing

Mod 1.6d: Sensation: Skin, Chemical & Body Senses & Sensory Interaction

Unit 2: Cognition (15-25% of AP exam based on this unit)

Mod 2.1a: Perception: Influences on Perception

Mod 2.1b: Perception: Perceptual Organization & Interpretation

Mod 2.2a: Thinking, Problem Solving, Judgments & Decision Making:
Concepts & Creativity

Mod 2.2b: Thinking, Problem Solving, Judgments & Decision Making:
Solving Problems & Making Decisions

Mod 2.3: Introduction to Memory

Mod 2.4: Encoding Memories

Mod 2.5: Storing Memories

Mod 2.6: Retrieving Memories

Mod 2.7: Forgetting & Other Memory Challenges
Mod 2.8a: Intelligence & Achievement: Theories of Intelligence
Mod 2.8b: Intelligence & Achievement: Assessing Intelligence
Mod 2.8c: Intelligence & Achievement: Stability of, and Influences on, Intelligence
Mod 2.8d: Intelligence & Achievement: Group Differences & the Question of Bias

Unit 3: Development & Learning (15-25% of AP exam based on this unit)

Mod 3.1: Themes & Methods in Developmental Psychology
Mod 3.2a: Physical Development Across the Lifespan: Prenatal Development, Infancy & Childhood
Mod 3.2b: Physical Development Across the Lifespan: Adolescence & Adulthood
Mod 3.3a: Gender & Sexual Orientation: Gender Development
Mod 3.3b: Gender & Sexual Orientation: The Biology and Psychology of Sex
Mod 3.3c: Gender & Sexual Orientation: Sexual Orientation
Mod 3.4: Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan
Mod 3.5: Communication & Language Development
Mod 3.6a: Social-Emotional Development Across the Lifespan: Infancy & Adulthood
Mod 3.6b: Social-Emotional Development Across the Lifespan: Adolescence, Emerging Adulthood & Adulthood
Mod 3.7a: Classical Conditioning: Basic Concepts
Mod 3.7b: Classical Conditioning: Applications & Biological Limits
Mod 3.8a: Operant Conditioning: Basic Concepts
Mod 3.8b: Operant Conditioning: Applications, Biological Limits & Contrasts with Classical Conditioning
Mod 3.9: Social, Cognitive & Neurological Factors in Learning

Unit 4: Social Psychology & Personality (15-25% of AP exam based on this unit)

Mod 4.1: Attribution Theory & Person Perception
Mod 4.2: Attitude Formation & Attitude Change
Mod 4.3a: Psychology of Social Situations: Conformity & Obedience
Mod 4.3b: Psychology of Social Situations: Group Behavior
Mod 4.3c: Psychology of Social Situations: Aggression
Mod 4.3d: Psychology of Social Situations: Attraction
Mod 4.3e: Psychology of Social Situations: Altruism, Conflict & Peacemaking
Mod 4.4: Introduction to Personality
Mod 4.5a: Psychodynamic & Humanistic Theories of Personality: Psychoanalytic & Psychodynamic Theories
Mod 4.5b: Psychodynamic & Humanistic Theories of Personality: Humanistic Theories
Mod 4.6a: Social-Cognitive & Trait Theories of Personality: Trait Theories
Mod 4.6b: Social-Cognitive & Trait Theories of Personality: Social-Cognitive Theories

Mod 4.6c: Social-Cognitive & Trait Theories of Personality: Exploring the Self
Mod 4.7a: Motivation: Motivational Concepts
Mod 4.7b: Motivation: Affiliation & Achievement
Mod 4.7c: Motivation: Hunger Motivation
Mod 4.8a: Emotion: Theories & Physiology of Emotion
Mod 4.8b: Emotion: Expressing & Experiencing Emotion

Unit 5: Mental & Physical Health (15-25% of AP exam based on this unit)

Mod 5.1a: Introduction to Health Psychology: Stress & Illness
Mod 5.1b: Introduction to Health Psychology: Coping With Stress
Mod 5.2a: Positive Psychology: Positive Emotions & Positive Traits
Mod 5.2b: Positive Psychology: Enhancing Well-Being
Mod 5.3: Explaining & Classifying Psychological Disorders
Mod 5.4a: Selection of Categories of Psychological Disorders: Anxiety Disorders,
OCD and Related Disorders & Trauma- & Stressor-Related Disorders
Mod 5.4b: Selection of Categories of Psychological Disorders: Depressive Disorders
& Bipolar Disorders
Mod 5.4c: Selection of Categories of Psychological Disorders:
Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
Mod 5.4d: Selection of Categories of Psychological Disorders: Dissociative, Personality,
Feeding, Eating & Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Mod 5.5a: Treatment of Psychological Disorders: Introduction to Therapy
& Psychodynamic & Humanistic Therapies
Mod 5.5b: Treatment of Psychological Disorders: Behavioral/Cognitive/Group Therapies
Mod 5.5c: Treatment of Psychological Disorders: Evaluating Psychotherapies
Mod 5.5d: Treatment of Psychological Disorders: The Biomedical Therapies
& Preventing Psychological Disorders

AP PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS

I have read and understand the requirements and expectations stated in the syllabus and promise to follow the rules of the class to the best of my ability.

Return this page to Mr. Meyer.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

When completed, this page will be kept in the student's notebook/folder for this class.