



Course Title: **AP Psychology**

Description: The advanced placement psychology course is designed for students who wish to complete studies equivalent to an introductory college course in psychology. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and selected animals. Major topics in the course include: history and approaches, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and cognitions.

*Recommended Prerequisite:* 11-12 grade, Cultural Geography or AP Human Geography or World History or AP European History

<u>Reporting Topic</u>	<u>Course Level Standards</u>	<u>Competency Statement</u>
<b>Scientific Foundations of Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the research contributions of major historical figures</li> <li>Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior</li> <li>Distinguish the different domains of psychology</li> <li>Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental design</li> </ul>	Students will be able to understand research methods associated with various theories, schools of thought, and perspectives.
<b>Biological Bases of Behavior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe various states of consciousness and their impact on behavior</li> <li>Identify the major psychoactive drug categories and classify specific drugs, including their psychological and physiological effects</li> <li>Identify, describe, and discuss the brain, body, and functions of interaction on behaviors</li> </ul>	Students will be able to describe the structures of human biological systems and their functions influence behavior and mental processes.
<b>Sensation and Perception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in sensation and perception</li> <li>Discuss how experience and culture can influence perceptual processes</li> <li>Describe and identify the sensory process and its relationship to human behavior</li> </ul>	Students will be able to explain how and why externally gathered sensations and perceptions impact behaviors and mental processes.
<b>Psychology of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the contributions of key researches in the</li> </ul>	Students will be able to



<b>Learning</b>	<p>psychology of learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the essential characteristics of insight learning, latent learning, and social learning</li><li>• Distinguish general differences between principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning</li><li>• Predict how practice, schedules of reinforcement, other aspects of reinforcement, and motivation will influence quality of learning</li></ul>	understand how experiences influence behaviors and mental processes.
<b>Cognitive Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory</li><li>• Identify the contributions of key researches in cognitive psychology</li><li>• Discuss how culture influences the definition of intelligence</li><li>• Compare and contrast historical and contemporary theories of intelligence</li><li>• Explain short and long term memory; define intelligence and key research/contributions</li></ul>	Students will be able to understand how knowledge surrounding sensation, perception, and learning provides the foundation for an understanding of cognition.
<b>Developmental Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the contributions of major researches in developmental psychology in the area of social development in childhood</li><li>• Discuss the interaction of nature and nurture (including cultural variations), specifically social development, in the determination of behavior</li><li>• Explain the maturation of cognitive abilities (Piaget's stages, information process)</li><li>• Identify the contributions of major researchers in the area of cognitive development in childhood</li><li>• Identify the contributions of key researchers in the area of adulthood and aging</li><li>• Identify the contributions of major researchers in the area of</li></ul>	Students will learn to examine the processes that contribute to behavioral change throughout a person's life.



	moral development	
<b>Motivation, Emotion, and Personality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify contributions of key researchers in the psychological field of motivation and emotion</li><li>• Compare and contrast major theories of emotion</li></ul>	Students will be able to understand major themes of emotions.
<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe contemporary and historical conceptions of what constitutes psychological disorders</li><li>• Identify the contributions of major figures in psychological treatment</li></ul>	Students will be able to describe psychological disorders and the theoretical perspective.
<b>Social Psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify important figures and research in the areas of attitude formation and change</li><li>• Identify the contributions of key researchers in the areas of conformity, compliance, and obedience</li><li>• Explain how individuals respond to expectations of others including group think, conformity, and obedience</li></ul>	Students will understand how our perceptions of social situations impact how we interact with others and how others interact with us.