

Course Syllabus
Advanced Placement Psychology
Mrs. Hoerner
shoerner@dubuque.k12.ia.us
Room: 106

Primary Text, Class Materials

- Meyers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology* (8th ed.). New York, NY, Worth Publishers.
- Hock, Roger (2009). *Forty Studies That Changed Psychology* (6th ed.). Pearson, Prentice Hall.
- Barron's AP Psychology Review

I would like to introduce you to your new best friend. I am sure most of you would never intentionally hurt your friends so your new best friend would like the same treatment. Never abuse your friend physically and always include your best friend in your life, go to coffee with your friend, take it with you on road trips, on vacations, even take it to bed with you! Also, don't forget to put some clothes on it. True friends make you a better person and appreciate you for who you are, this new best friend will be sure to enhance your life as you milk the knowledge you gain from it. You would have paid about \$100.00 for your best friend, however, today it is free!

You will need a **three-hole notebook** for handouts and notes. You will also need a **calendar** or organizer to keep track of due dates, all of which will be posted well in advance. These materials should be brought to class on a daily basis. You will need access to a Mobile Learning Device as well.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of AP psychology is 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. (From the *Advanced Placement Course Description for Psychology*, published by the College Board.)

Course Objectives

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will learn the basic principles of psychological research and devise simple research projects.
4. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They will be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting arguments without careful, objective evaluation.

Questions to Think About Before We Begin

1. **Why are you taking this class?** Do you want to learn psychology? Are you ready for a college-level class? Are you serious about the AP Exam in May? If not, this is probably the wrong class for you.
2. **What are your priorities?** Are academics near the top of the list, or are you more concerned with other things? I don't expect this course to consume your entire life, but if academics are not one of your top priorities, this is probably the wrong course for you.
3. How much **time** can you devote to the class? The time required will depend on your strengths and weaknesses, about one hour a day is a good rule of thumb.
4. Are you an **independent learner** who is willing to use technology? You will be expected to log onto Canvas where you will complete assignments and online quizzes. If you are not willing or self motivated to do this your grade will suffer.

5. Are you a strong reader? Nothing will occupy more of your out-of-class time than reading and studying the text. If you are a good and self-motivated reader, you have a distinct advantage. If you are not a good reader, know that it is going to take extra time and effort on your part to compensate. If you are not willing to become a strong reader, this is probably the wrong course for you.

Keep in mind that your level of motivation is much more important than your ability level. If you want to succeed in this course, and if you are willing to put in the necessary effort, YOU WILL SUCCEED! Attitude, study skills, determination, and discipline count for far more than intelligence.

If there is any question in your mind as to whether this is the right course for you, see me today.

What Can You Do to Help Yourself?

- 1) Don't miss class, you will miss activities and discussions.
- 2) Don't be afraid to get help if you do not understand something. How can you get help?
 - a) Ask a classmate or former student.
 - b) See me or Mr. Miller before or after school, during my lunch or prep.
 - c) E-mail me (shoerner@dbqschools.org).
- 3) Keep up! Don't fall behind! Follow the class schedule and be disciplined enough to stick to it. Complete assignments and finish reading on time. Be prepared for class every day. Review each week.
- 4) Take complete, dated class notes, align with learning targets. It is very important to review your class notes each day while they are still fresh in your mind.
- 5) Be prepared to read and be tested on material we did not have time to cover or discuss in class.
- 6) Learn to read more effectively.
 - a) Read actively. Don't just look at the words
 - b) Preview a chapter before you begin.
 - c) Do not try to read an entire chapter at once. It's divided into sections for a reason!
 - d) Do not ignore pictures, diagrams, tables, and sidebars in your book.
 - e) 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.
- 6) Use various forms to help you review. I.e; Myers website, apps, review books, TECHNOLOGY
- 7) Form a study group. This is an excellent way to help one another and have a good time as well.

Policies

- 1) Ample notice will be given for any assignment, quiz or exam. The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in class. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. There are assigned pages to read in the textbook **every** night.
- 2) If you have an excused absence that you could not anticipate on the day of a test, a quiz, or an assignment due date, you should be prepared to do or turn in the work on the day you return. If you have an excused absence you know about in advance make arrangements with me before the absence takes place so the work can be completed before you leave.
2. **Don't cheat**. Don't put yourself in any position where I am forced to judge your honesty. The damage to your integrity and reputation is difficult to repair. Students who have cheated in the past are very disappointed when they take the AP exam. It is assumed that any work that a student submits is indeed their own and reflects their best effort. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on any assignment, project, or assessment will be dealt with according to the cheating/plagiarism policy outlined on page 32-33 of the student planner.
- 3) **Don't** use class as a way to catch up on your sleep
- 4) **Don't** use class as a way to gossip with your friends on your cell phone
- 5) **Don't** use class as a study hall for our assigned reading for the day or other subjects
- 6) **Do** bring a Mobile Learning Device to class to be used as a way to enhance your education.
- 7) **Do** have fun and learn a little about yourself and others around you!

- 8) **Do** bring and wear your student ID every day. Per District expectation, high school students are expected to wear their student id while at school at all times. In this classroom, you will be expected to wear your student id.
- 9) If a student scores 60% or lower on a unit exam, the student must be willing to work with Mrs. Hoerner in a private tutor session for reteaching to occur. The student will be notified and a teacher-student meeting will be arranged to discuss the plan. If the student is unwilling to participate in outside help sessions, it is at this point a parent/student/teacher meeting will be held to discuss placement.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on tests, quizzes and assignments.

- **40%: Test.** Test will consist of 60-70 multiple choice questions
- **20%: Free response.** FR is a written essay, each chapter will consists of one FR.
- **15%: Quiz.** You will have 1 announced Canvas quiz every chapter. If for ANY reason you cannot complete the Canvas quiz you are allowed 1 oops per semester. Student is expected to ask Mrs. Hoerner to 're-open' the quiz and this must be completed before the chapter test.
- **15%: Homework.** Each chapter will include outside homework assignments that will be graded. In addition, outside reading sources will be assigned and students at times will be expected to complete an accompanied worksheet as well as be prepared to discuss reading in class.
- **10%: Projects.** You will be asked to complete 4 projects for the entire year.
- Opportunities for extra credit will be limited.

Excellence in Psychology Award

Each spring, the American Psychological Association's Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (APA TOPSS) sponsors the Excellence in Psychology Award. One Advanced Placement student will receive this award in the spring. Students will be nominated by their peers based on his/her performance in the course.

The Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology

Date: Monday, May 7, 2018—afternoon session

Cost: \$93

Description:

The AP Psychology Exam is approximately two hours long and includes both a 70-minute multiple-choice section and a 50-minute free-response (essay) section.

The test is scored on a five-point scale: 5—Extremely well qualified, 4—Well qualified, 3—Qualified, 2—Possibly qualified, 1—No recommendation. Most colleges grant credit and placement for qualifying work (i.e., a score of 3 or higher) on the examination. Some require a score of 4 and a few don't accept AP scores.

The multiple-choice section contains 100 questions and accounts for two-thirds of the student's overall score. The free-response section accounts for the remaining one-third. Candidates are asked to answer two essay questions. The questions require candidates to interrelate different content areas and to analyze and evaluate psychological constructs and, more generally, theoretical perspectives. Candidates are expected to use their analytical and organizational skills to formulate cogent answers in writing their essays.

Additional information about AP and other College Board programs is available at:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student>

It is my sincere hope that when you leave this class you remember it as one of the most meaningful classes you took in high school. I look forward to getting to know you as we tackle AP Psychology together. There will be many times you may ask a question and I will not know the answer, however, it is my promise to you that I will work hard to find the answer. I love this course because it provides us with multiple explanations to people and world around us. This class is built around my teaching style – activity and peer discussion based. I truly expect that through this method of teaching, the material

*will become more meaningful to you as well as retain in your memory for a longer period of time.
Good Luck!*