

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 will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Course Objectives

- Students will study the major core concepts and theories of Psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
- Students will prepare to take the AP Psychology Examination.
- Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research and apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills.

Materials needed:

- 3 ring binder or spiral notebook (at least a 3 subject notebook – there will be many notes and diagrams)
- 3x5 index cards for vocabulary (will probably need 300)
- Lined paper/Pens/pencils

Assignment Expectations

Students are expected to keep up with the reading and submit assignments by the due date. Online courses have the advantage of allowing students to work at their own pace but if they fall too far behind, they risk not being able to interact with other students in the course and not being prepared for the AP exam.

Topics to be covered:

- History, Approaches and Research Methods
- Social Psychology
- Biological Basis of Behavior
- States of Consciousness
- Developmental Psychology
- Sensation & Perception
- Learning/Cognition
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Motivation and Emotion
- Personality
- Abnormal Psychology
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders

Is there summer work?

Students are expected to attend an informational meeting or “boot camp” in the summer where materials will be discussed and disseminated to students enrolling in the course. Information about online learning and tips and advice on how to succeed in an online environment will be discussed. Students will complete the introductory module.

What is the value of taking a Virtual Advanced Placement Psychology program?

Students are given practical experience in research, analysis, and written & verbal communication which will help them succeed in college courses and in the contemporary job market. They are able to take a course that may not otherwise be available to them as high school students. They, also, have the possibility of earning college credit while learning to budget their time, determine priorities, and intensely study a topic that truly interests them!