

Advanced Placement® ** Psychology*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of psychology that introduces students to the major topics of the field, the terminology and methodology of psychology, and the historical and current understanding of human behavior and thought-processes. Students learn to analyze human experiences like psychologists do and to apply what they have learned to the world around them. The focus of the course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Psychology course administered by the College Board in the spring of each year.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After successfully finishing the course, students will be able to:

1. understand the concepts, terminology, and research findings presented in an introductory college psychology course.
2. utilize investigative and critical thinking skills necessary in the study of psychology.
3. express interest in the study of psychology and appreciate the place of psychology as a science in modern society.
4. demonstrate their knowledge of introductory psychology on the Advanced Placement Psychology Examination.

PREREQUISITES: General Biology Suggested.

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXT: Myers, David; Psychology in Modules, 9th Edition: Worth Publishers, ISBN: 1-4292-1638-7

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I: Introduction to Psychology

History of Psychology
Thinking Like a Psychologist
Research Strategies in Psychology

Unit II: The Biological Basis of Behavior

The Nervous and Hormonal Systems
Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity

Unit III: Human Development and Awareness

Life Span Development
Sensation and Perception
States of Consciousness

Unit IV: Human Cognition

Learning
Memory

Thinking, Language
Intelligence

Unit V: Human Motivation and Emotion

Motivation
Emotion
Stress and Health

Unit VI: Human Interaction

Personality
Psychological Disorders
Therapy
Social Psychology

Unit VII: Course Review

Preparing for the Exam
Final Exam

* = One semester (.5 credit) course

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