

# AP Psychology

Semester 1, 2016-2017

## Teacher Information

### Teacher

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### Office Location

Student Success, Room 100

## General Information

### Description

AP Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the behaviour and mental processes of humans and other animals. Students will explore psychological concepts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields of psychology. Students will also examine the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

### Expectations and Goals

1. Study core concepts and theories of psychology.
2. Learn and apply the skills of psychological research.
3. Prepare for success on the College Board's AP Psychology examination.

## Course Evaluation

### Evaluation Strategies

#### Term (70%)

#### Unit Tests (30%)

Unit tests are modeled on the AP Exam. Unit tests consist of **30 multiple-choice questions** and **one essay** to be completed in **one period**. The majority of tests will be written individually, however the Unit 4 and Unit 9 tests will be written in study groups. During group tests, students will work collaboratively to complete questions. Students are permitted to **drop one test each term**. All students must write the Unit 3 test. Students must be present on test days. Failure to attend a test without legitimate notification and/or documentation (e.g. doctor's note) will result in a mark of zero. Students must demonstrate academic honesty during test writing. Cellular phones are not permitted in the testing environment. Failure to demonstrate academic honesty will result in a mark of zero.

#### Quizzes (20%)

Quizzes are **open note** and consist of **20 multiple-choice questions**. In collaboration with their assigned study group, students will prepare a double-sided "cheat sheet" on 8 ½ x 11 paper. Students must have their cheat sheet printed or photocopied at the beginning of class on quiz days. Students must be present on quiz days. Failure to attend a quiz without legitimate notification and/or documentation (e.g. doctor's note) will result in a mark of zero. Students must demonstrate academic honesty during quiz writing. Cellular phones are not permitted in the quiz environment. Failure to demonstrate academic honesty will result in a mark of zero.

#### Portfolio Assignment (20%)

The portfolio assignment will enhance students' understanding of psychological concepts, principles, and phenomena. It will also aid students in developing work habits that will lead to academic success at university. Students will assemble a portfolio that demonstrates learning throughout the course. The portfolio will include: quiz corrections, test corrections, work sheets, and written reflections. The portfolio will be submitted twice throughout the semester; before the midterm exam and before the final exam.

### Midterm Examination (10%)

Students will write a midterm exam covering the **first seven units**. The midterm exam consists of multiple choice questions and two essay questions. The number of multiple-choice questions will be reduced proportionately to the time available in the exam period to replicate time pressure.

### Final Examination (20%)

Students will write a final exam covering the **last seven units**. The final exam will be in the same format as the AP Psychology Exam. The AP Psychology Exam includes a **70-minute multiple choice section** that accounts for two-thirds of the exam grade and a **50-minute free-response section** made up of two questions that accounts for one third of the exam grade.

Term (70%)	Culminating Tasks (30%)
Tests (30%)	Midterm Examination (10%)
Quizzes (20%)	Final Examination (20%)
Portfolio Assignment (20%)	

## Course Materials and Fees

### Required Text

**Myers' Psychology for AP** Textbook, David G. Myers - \$125/replacement fee

### Recommended Text

**Myers' Psychology for AP** Study Guide, David G. Myers - \$35

### College Board AP Psychology Examination

Students are not required to write the College Board's AP Psychology exam. However, choosing to write the exam has many benefits including: the possibility of earning a transfer credit and the valuable experience of writing a university exam. Students wishing to write the exam must pay a **fee of \$100**. An **exam reservation deposit of \$50** must be paid on the day of the final exam. The remaining fee must be paid in early March. The College Board's AP Psychology exam will occur the **first week of May 2017**. If students are in financial need, please speak to your teacher about cost subsidies. If students have an IEP, please speak to your teacher about testing accommodations.

## Additional Information

### AP Psychology Class Website

The AP Psychology course is a blended learning environment. Students are required to create a student account on the Edmodo website. Students may download the Edmodo app on their smartphone to have access to course content on-the-go. PowerPoints, videos, readings, worksheets, review materials, assignments, exemplars, and course resources are accessible on the Edmodo website to enhance student learning. Students can use the website to ask both their peers and teacher questions during the evenings and weekends. If a student does not have access to the online environment, please see your teacher for hardcopies of course content.

### Course Responsibilities

The AP Psychology course is designed to prepare students for university learning. Students are responsible for their success in the course. They are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to enhance success. Opportunities to enhance success that are built into the course are: study groups, quiz and test corrections, and make-up assignments. Study group participation enhances student learning through dialogue and sharing the workload. Quiz and test corrections permit students to earn a  $\frac{1}{2}$  point back for every multiple-choice question corrected. Make-up assignments allow students to substitute a low test mark each term with an assignment that applies psychological concepts.

Students are also encouraged to self-advocate. Please make an appointment with your teacher to receive remedial assistance. Students with an I.E.P. should speak to their teacher about teaching strategies, environmental and testing accommodations to assist learning.