

**Department:** History

**Course Name:** Advanced Placement Psychology

**Course Description:**

This course is available to self-directed rising seniors who are interested in psychology and the underlying themes of human behavior and mental processes. Students are introduced to the various methods of research of the field and use this knowledge to critically evaluate the theories that shaped the field. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, the biological basis of behavior, learning and cognition, sensation and perception, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Participation and engagement in the class is expected. A strong background in science is recommended. Completion of a summer assignment is required.

**Content:**

Historical roots of Psychology  
Research Methods and Descriptive Statistics  
The Biology of Behavior  
Sensation and Perception  
Learning  
Memory  
Cognition and Intelligence  
Language Acquisition  
Social Psychology  
Developing Through the Lifespan  
Personality  
Psychological Disorders  
Treatment of Psychological Disorders

**Skills:**

Understand the role of psychology in daily life.  
Apply historical and current approaches to real world situations.  
Analyze human behavior through the historical and current perspectives in the field of psychology.  
Relate the function of the neuron to the brain and body.  
Apply brain development to issues within society.  
Understand the various cognitive processes that influence perception of our world.  
Analyze the influence of the group on the individual.  
Analyze data from and draw conclusions presented in experiments, correlations, case studies, naturalistic observations, and surveys.  
Critically evaluate research design, research results, and conclusions of past and current research.  
Understand the historical and current theories of and approaches to abnormal psychology.  
Understand current psychopharmacological and therapeutic interventions for treating mental illness.

**Texts and Materials:**

Myers and DeWall, Exploring Psychology 10<sup>th</sup> edition (Worth Publishers), 2016; Hard copy of text and e-code provided.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture  
Discussions  
Tactile/Kinesthetic Activities  
Small group collaboration  
Classroom Demonstrations  
News stories and application of concepts to stories (real-world application)  
Journal Prompts  
Critical Analysis of Research (past and current)  
Videos and Films  
Debate  
Collaborative work, peer-to-peer instruction, and creative activities  
iPad Applications: 3D Brain

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Homework (Reading text, articles, research)  
Individual and Group Presentations  
Class Engagement (thoughtful contribution to class discussion, being prepared, accountability)  
Tests  
Quizzes  
Winter Exam  
Demonstrations and debates  
Writing Assignments  
Journal Summaries  
AP exam in May

