

Department: History

Course Name: Advanced Placement Psychology

Seniors only

Course Description:

This course is available by department approval to self-directed seniors who are interested in pursuing psychology or other health-related fields in college. Class discussion, evaluation of historical and current research, and application of theories to daily life experiences allow for greater comprehension and synthesis of foundational concepts. Class participation and engagement is expected. A strong background in science is recommended, as there is a heavy emphasis on the biological basis of behavior, and the AP Psychology exam has been redesigned with a heavy focus on reading and interpreting scientific research.

Content:

Historical roots of Psychology
Research Methods and Descriptive Statistics
The Biology of Behavior
Sensation and Perception
Learning
Memory
Cognition and Intelligence
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.
Synthesize concepts from across the curriculum through discussion, writing, and presentations.
Write proficiently in the manner of the field, using vocabulary specific to the course/field.

Texts and Materials:

Myers and DeWall, Exploring Psychology 10th edition (Worth Publishers), 2016; Hard copy of text provided in class. A PDF of the textbook is also posted to the class page.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture/Note taking

Discussions

Tactile/Kinesthetic Activities

Small group collaboration

Classroom Demonstrations

News stories and application of concepts to stories (real-world application)

Critical Analysis of Research (past and current)

Videos and Films

Debate

Collaborative work, peer-to-peer instruction, and creative activities, such as slides, student videos, building neuron and brain models.

Methods of Evaluation:

Homework (Assigned readings, evaluation of research, weekly multiple choice and skill checks)

Individual and Group Presentations

Class Engagement (thoughtful contribution to class discussion, being prepared, accountability)

Tests

Quizzes

Winter Exam

Demonstrations and debates

Weekly bellringer quizzes

Writing assignments and critical evaluation of research studies

AP exam in May

