AP Psychology Syllabus

**Brief Description of Course**:

Advanced Placement Psychology is a college level course designed to prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement examination, administered by the College Board and the Educational Testing service. For students who achieve a score of 3, 4, or 5 (depending on the university) universities grant either credit or advanced placement, or both, for taking a one semester introductory college course in Psychology. This course will attempt to help the individual understand himself and others and to examine the human organism and its mental processes. Psychology deals with the mental and emotional processes as expressed through human relations, disorders, therapies and relationship of psychology to groups (including the family) and society are covered. **[SC17]**

**Textbook**:

Myers, David G. *Psychology* 7th ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2004.

Plotnik, Rod. *Introduction to Psychology* 6th ed. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth, 2002

**Other Course Materials**:

*Discovering Psychology.* Video Series. The Annenberg/CPB Multimedia Collection

*The Brain.*  The Annenberg/CPB Multimedia Collection

Benjamin, Ludy T., Jr. and Kathleen D. Lowman eds. *Activities Handbook for the Teaching of Psychology.* Vol.1 Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association 1981.

Benjamin, Ludy T., and C. Blair-Broeker, R.M. Earnst, and B. Nodine, eds. *Activities Handbook for the Teaching of Psychology.* Vol. 4. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association 1999.

Hock, Roger. *Forty Studies That Changed Psychology* 5th ed. Pearson U.S. Imports and Phipes 2003.

McEntarffer, Robert, Wesely, Allyson. *Barron’s How To Prepare For The Advance Placement Exam Psychology 2nd ed.*  Hauppage, NY: Barron’s Educational Services, 2004.

*SparkNotes Sparkcharts for Psychology*

**Overview of Advance Placement Psychology**:

Class Schedule: This one semester class meets daily for 42 minutes over the course of 16 weeks

Course organization: This course covers the 14 major content areas outlined in the AP Psychology Course Description. The 14 content areas are organized into 6 units. Each chapter is assessed through a series of chapter quizzes and a chapter test. Each completed unit is evaluated through a Free Response essay specific to the unit theme. In addition there are internet assignments, assigned readings and research topics that contribute to the students grade.

**Course Outline**:

**Unit One – Introduction [SC1 & SC2]**

Chapter 1 Historical and Modern Approaches

Chapter 2 Research Methodologies

 Objectives

 Historical schools of thought

 Modern approaches

 Research methods

 Longitudinal study

 Cross section study

 Correlational method

 Case study method

# Unit Two – The Biology of Psychology [SC3, SC4, SC5, & SC6]

Chapter 3 The Brain and neuronal function

Chapter 4 The Central Nervous System

Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception

Chapter 7 States of Consciousness

 Objectives

 Neuroanatomy

 Nervous system organization

 Neural transmission and communication

 Endocrine system – hormonal communication

 The five sensory systems

 The process of neurotransmission

 Brain anatomy and the functions of each section

 Sensation thresholds

 Sensory Transduction

 Perception – attention, illusions, processing

 States of consciousness – sleep-dreaming-hypnosis-altered states

 REM and NREM sleep states

 Drug interactions and effect on consciousness

# Unit Three - Cognition [SC7]

Chapter 9 & 10 Learning – Classical and Operant Conditioning

Chapter 11 Types of Memory

Chapter 13 & 14 Intelligence, Thought and Language

 Objectives

 Classical vs. Operant conditioning

 Schedules of reinforcement

 Effects of punishment

 Cognition – problem solving

 Characteristics of short vs. long term memory

 Memory – Information processing, storage and retrieval

 Defining intelligence – aptitude testing – test bias

 Gardner’s theory of Multiple Intelligences

 Sternberg’s Triarchic Theory

 Binet and Weschler’s contributions to standardized testing

# Unit Four – The Individual and Psychology [SC9, SC10, SC11, & SC 16]

Chapter 17 Developmental Psychology

Chapter 15 & 16 Motivation and Emotion

Chapter 25 Social Psychology

 Objectives

 Nature vs. Nurture

 Developmental theory

 Piaget – Cognitive development theory

 Erikson – Psychosocial development theory

 Freud - Psychosexual development theory

 Kohlberg – Moral development theory

 Infancy-childhood-adolescence-adulthood

 Physiology of emotion

 Theories of emotion-James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, Schacter-Singer

 Motivational concepts- instincts, drives, Maslow’s hierarchy

 Group dynamics

 Attribution theory

 Conformity, compliance and obedience

 Heuristics

 Confirmation bias

 Belief perseverance

 The Milgram experiment

 The Asch experiment

 The Stanford Prison experiment

# Unit Five – Personality and Assessment [SC8 & SC12]

Chapter 19 Freudian and Humanistic Theories

Chapter 20 Social, Cognitive and Trait Theories

 Objectives

 Psychodynamic perspective – Freud, Jung, Adler

 Humanistic perspective – Maslow, Rogers

 Social-Cognitive perspective – Bandura

 Trait perspective – Allport

# Unit Six – Disordered Behavior and Therapies [SC14 &SC15]

Chapter 22 Assessment and Anxiety Disorders

Chapter 23 Mood Disorder and Schizophrenia

Chapter 24 Therapies

 Objectives

 Definitions of abnormal

 Classifying disorders –DSM IV

 Major categories of disorders – Anxiety, Dissociative, Mood,

 Personality

 Schizophrenia

 Treatment approaches – Psychotherapy, Psychoanalysis,

 Pharmacological, Humanistic, Cognitive

**Unit Seven – Review for the AP Psychology Exam**