

Melrose High School Syllabus

Department: Social Studies

Course Title: 304 AP Psychology

Course Description: Curriculum for this course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the history, theories, and methods of psychology. Course topics include the historical perspectives of psychology; scientific research; biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; learning, memory, and cognition; motivation, emotion, and personality; human development; social psychology; and psychological disorders and treatments. Topics will be introduced through lectures, discussions and demonstrations; students will do a significant amount of reading and writing outside of class. Students taking this course are required to complete a reading/writing assignment during the summer prior to the start of the course. Students taking this course are also required to take the College Board AP Exam in Psychology in the spring, and will be expected to complete 5-8 hours each week of independent practice such as homework, reading and projects.

MHS Learning Expectations:

- Write effectively using standard written English.
- Demonstrate the ability to read effectively.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
- Demonstrate good citizenship.
- Demonstrate an understanding of tolerance and diversity, and respect for themselves, others and their school.

Essential Questions:

- What is psychology and what makes psychology a social science?
- How do psychologists research/gather information about human behavior, its causes and consequences?
- What role do the nervous system and brain play in determining behavior?
- How does the presence of others impact the behavior of the individual?
- What causes psychological disorders and how can they be treated?

<p><u>Students will know:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● like other scientists, psychologists specialize in various subfields and approach psychological issues from a variety of perspectives.	<p><u>Students will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● describe various subfields and perspectives within psychology, and explain how psychologists from different perspectives would approach the same scenarios.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● there are many methods of conducting psychological research, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. ● internal (biochemistry, genetics, brain/body structures, etc.) and external (upbringing, social/cultural influences, situational factors, etc.) forces shape our behavior; there is an ongoing debate in psychology about the relative importance of those forces. ● there are many biological and situational factors that influence the development and progression of psychological disorders, as well as a variety of methods to treat those disorders. ● because each individual is different, there are very few “absolute” answers in psychology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of using various methods of conducting psychological research. ● analyze the role of nature (biochemistry, genetics, brain/body structures, etc.) and nurture (upbringing, social/cultural influences, situational factors, etc.) in determining behavior. ● describe several biological and situational factors that lead to the development and progression of psychological disorders, and evaluate treatment options.
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Course Outline:

Quarter I	Quarter II
<p>-What is Psychology? (definitions, origin, history) -Scientific Research (including ethics and statistics) -Biology and Behavior (neurons/nervous system, endocrine system, brain)</p> <p>*Through one or more projects in Quarter I, we begin to introduce many of the studies that lay the foundation for concepts in later units.</p>	<p>-Biology and Behavior (neurons/nervous system, endocrine system, brain) -Sensation and Perception -Learning -Memory</p>
Quarter III	Quarter IV
<p>-Cognition and Intelligence -Consciousness -Development -Personality -Motivation and Emotion</p>	<p>-Social Psychology -Disorders and Treatments -EXAM REVIEW</p>

Primary Course Materials:

Textbook: Myers, David. Psychology (9e). New York: Worth, 2010.

Additional Course Materials:

- various PsychSim 5 Tutorials and worksheets, to be accessed electronically through Worth Publishers Student Center for Psychology (9e):
http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers9e/#t_512463
- Coon, Dennis. Introduction to Psychology: Exploration and Application (7e). New York: West Publishing, 1995. (in-class text)
- Zimbardo, Philip G.. Discovering Psychology video series. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2001. (available online at Zimbardo, Philip G. Discovering Psychology. Annenberg, 2015. <<http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/>>)
- Sacks, Oliver. The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat. NY: Simon and Schuster Adult Publishing Group, 1998. (summer reading book)
- “Some of the Subfields of Psychology,” *Careers in Psychology*. Washington, DC: APA, 2011. (to be accessed online at: <http://apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers.pdf>; focus on pp. 4-9)
- various articles, many of which are updated as new information becomes available

Student Materials: notebook and/or binder dedicated solely to AP Psychology

Grade Determination: The grades for each term will be determined using a weighted point system. Grades are based on class participation, classwork and homework assignments, and assessments which may include projects, tests, quizzes, essays (including timed writing), and journal assignments.

Major Assignments: The major assignments for this course include: required summer reading assignment (due the day students return to school in the fall), 3-4 timed writing assignments, midyear, and final exam.

Please note: ALL STUDENTS WHO TAKE AP PSYCHOLOGY ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE AP EXAM IN MAY.

Midyear & Final Exams: Midyear and Final Exams will be given. These exams count as 10% of the respective semester grade. The average of the first and second quarter grades will count 90% in determining the first semester average. Similarly, the second semester average will include the average of third and fourth quarter grades at 90% and final exam at 10%. The average for the entire year will be the average of both semesters. Senior students will be asked to complete a final assessment at the end of both the third and fourth quarter.

Q1 = 22.5% Q2 = 22.5% Midterm = 5% Q3 = 22.5% Q4 = 22.5% Final = 5%