**AP Psychology Syllabus**

**Harrison High School**

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*HHS Social Studies Mission Statement*

*The Social Studies Department at Harrison HS is dedicated to using best practices to provide our students with exemplary social science education. We will assist our students in becoming responsible citizens by focusing on the geographic, social, political and economic forces that have shaped the world we live in today. We will use available technology and data-driven instruction to provide equity and excellence for every student.*

**Course Title:** AP\* Psychology

**Course Goal:** To learn about the field of psychology through in-depth study, discussion, and hands-on activities.

**Textbook:**  Myers, David G. *Psychology for AP\**, 1st ed. New York: worth Publishers, 2011.

**Resources:**  The 1999 AP Released Exam and other support materials released by the College Board as well as a variety of journals, newspaper, and related print sources.

**Recommended Supplies**: Three ring binder, binder dividers, loose leaf paper, writing utensils, netbook

**Class Fee**: Students will be charged a class fee of $5 per semester as well as a one-time fee of $10 for textbooks.

**Exam:** Students will be expected to take the AP Psychology Exam in May. Test fees are usually around $82.

**Course Objectives**

This course will prepare students for the AP Psychology Exam that will be taken at the end of the semester. Students will be able to use critical thinking skills in order to understand the key concepts of psychology and be able to understand these concepts in relation to everyday behavior and events. Students will also learn basic psychological research methods that will aid in their future collegiate studies.

**Grading**

Each grading period will be calculated in the following manner:

* Tests and Major Projects- 50%
* Quizzes- 25% (20% for 1st Grading Period)
* Homework/Classwork- 25% (20% for 1st Grading Period)
* Summer Assignment- 10% (1st Grading Period Only)

**Grading Policy**

The following scale will be used for this course.

100%-90%- A

89%- 80%- B

79%-70%- C

69%-60%- D

59% or below: F

**Classwork Expectations**

Assignments will be expected to be turned in on time and completed to the best of your ability. There will be assigned readings every night and students will be expected to complete these. There will be frequent quizzes and there will be a comprehensive exam at the end of each unit. Quizzes will be composed of multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank, and short answers. Unit exams will consist of multiple choice questions and one free-response question that will be similar to the format of the actual AP exam. Students will also be expected to participate in individual and group projects as well as assigned research papers.

**Required Papers**

Each student will be required to complete the following papers over psychological concepts. More information will be given upon assignment.

* Research Paper (1st Semester)
  + Students will research a topic of their choice over a controversial issue discussed in class throughout the semester. Students must choice a stance on the topic and provide adequate scholarly research in order to prove their thesis statement. This paper will be due on the 2nd to last week of class for the semester.
* Psychological Diagnosis Paper (2nd Semester)
  + Students will view a movie of their choice and, using their knowledge gained over the course of the year, students will “diagnose” a psychological disorder for a character from their selected movie using information from the movie to cite symptoms. Students will also be asked to provide treatment options for the “patient.”

**Policies and Expectations**

- Please bring all materials to every class, including your textbook and netbook. Passes will not be written to go to your locker to retrieve materials that you were supposed to bring with you!

- Tardies: If you come to my room with a pass, please bring the pass to me without interrupting class. If you do not have a pass, please come into class quietly and I will mark you accordingly.

- Absences: If you are absent, you will be required to check the on the weebly site for assignments. If your absence is excused, you will be given the same amount of time that you were absent to turn in your work. Any work not turned in at that time will be referred to as LATE.

- Late work will be accepted for one week after the due date for half credit. Please make sure to put your name, the assignment title, the date it was due, and the date you turned the paper in at the top of the paper.

- All work that is turned in on paper will need to have your name, the date the assignment was due, and the date that you turned it in on the top. Please also include the class name and period as it is easier for me to keep track of.

**Final Exam Policy**

Each grading period will be worth 40% of your grade with the final consisting of the final 20%. Exams will be cumulative (covering an entire semester’s course material).

Exemption Policy- Students may exempt two final exams if the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. A or B in the course
2. No more than two tardies in the course
3. No more than five excused absences
4. Maintain citizenship
5. No missing assignments

**Class Fees**

You will be expected to bring $10 for your textbook to Miss Loete. You will also be assessed a $5 course fee each semester that will be billed home with other course fees.

**Class Expectations: PRIDE**

• Preparedness—Be in the classroom when the bell rings with necessary materials (pencil, paper, textbook, netbook, and completed assignments).

• Respect—Listen and follow directions. Help create a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

• Integrity—Take responsibility to learn the material and show what you know.

• Determination—Always be attentive and productive. Use time wisely.

• Engagement—Participate by taking notes, asking and answering questions, joining activities, and completing assignments.

**Course Scope and Sequence**

1st Nine Week Grading Period: Units 1-3 will be covered with two unit exams (Units 1 and Unit 2/3) and a midterm.

2nd Nine Week Grading Period: Units 4-7 will be covered with three unit exams (Unit 4, Unit 5, Unit 6/7) and the final.

3rd Nine Week Grading Period: Units 8-11 will be covered with two unit exams (Unit 8/9 and Unit 10/11) and a midterm.

4th Nine Week Grading Period: Unit 12-14 will be covered with three unit exams (Unit 12, Unit 13, Unit 14) and the final.

**Unit 1: Introduction to Psychology and Psychological Research- 3 Weeks**

* Define psychology
* Psychological Approaches
* History of Psychology
* Scientific Method
* Research
  + Types of Research
  + Research Design
  + Research Ethics

**Unit 2: Biological Basis of Behavior- 3 Weeks**

* Neurons and Neurotransmitters
* Central Nervous System
* Endocrine System
* Brain Structure and Function
* Heredity vs. Biology
  + Nature vs. Nurture

**Unit 3: Sensation and Perception- 3 Weeks**

* Absolute and Difference Thresholds
* Signal Detection Theory
* Sensory Adaptation
* Sensory Organs
* Perception
  + Depth Perception
  + Illusions

**Unit 4: Developmental Psychology- 3 Weeks**

* Nature vs. Nurture
* Influential theorists
  + Piaget
  + Freud
  + Kohlberg
  + Erickson
* Physical Development
* Psychological Development
  + Identity Formation
  + Social Development
  + Moral Development

**Unit 5: States of Consciousness- 2 Weeks**

* Sleep and Dreaming
  + Function of sleep
  + Function of dreams
* Hypnosis
  + Effects of Hypnosis
  + Effectiveness as a treatment option
* Psychoactive Drugs
  + Nature of Psychoactive Drugs
  + Effects of Drugs on the Body
  + Drug Dependency and Withdrawal

**Unit 6: Learning and Cognition- 2 Weeks**

* Classical Conditioning
  + Pavlov’s Dogs, Stimulus and Response
  + Adapting to Environment
  + Applications of Classical Conditioning
* Operant Conditioning
  + Types of Reinforcers
  + Rewards and Punishments
  + Schedules of Reinforcement
* Cognitive Factors in Learning
  + Latent Learning
  + Observational Learning
  + Behavioral Modification

**Unit 7: Memory- 2 Weeks**

* Memory Classifications
* Types of Memory
  + Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval
* Stages of Memory
  + Sensory, Short-term, and Long-Term
* Forgetting and Memory Improvement
  + Basic Memory Tasks
  + Improving Memory

**Unit 8: Thinking and Language- 2 Week s**

* Language
  + Heredity Influences
  + Stages of Language Development
* Thinking
  + Basic Elements of Thought
  + Characteristics of creative thought and thinking
* Problem Solving
  + Algorithms and Heuristics
* Deductive and Inductive Reasoning
* Decision Making

**Unit 9: Motivation and Emotion- 2 Weeks**

* Theories of Motivation
  + Intrinsic, Drive-Reduction, Humanistic, etc.
* Hunger and Eating Disorders
* Theories of Emotion
  + James-Lang
  + Cannon-Bard
  + Schachter-Singer
* Motivation
  + Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic
* Stress
  + Biological and Psychological Reactions

**Unit 10: Testing and Individual Differences- 2 Weeks**

* Standardization and Norms
  + Validity Scales
  + Norms
  + Test Standardization
* Types of Tests
  + Aptitude vs. Achievement
* Intelligence
  + Origins
  + Nature of Intelligence and Creativity
  + Test Validity
  + Types of Assessments

**Unit 11: Personality- 2 Weeks**

* Theories and Approaches
  + Psychoanalysis and the Id, Ego, and Superego
  + Defense Mechanisms
  + Jung and Adler
  + Maslow and Rodgers
* Assessment Techniques
  + Personality Inventories
  + Rorschach Test
  + Validity
* Growth and Adjustment
  + Personal control, learning helplessness, optimism
  + Individualism
  + Social-Cognitive Perspective

**Unit 12: Abnormal Psychology- 2 Weeks**

* Major Categories
  + Anxiety Disorders
  + Somatoform Disorders
  + Mood Disorders
  + Schizophrenia Disorders
  + Dissociative Disorders
  + Personality Disorders
* DSM IV-TR and DSM V
  + Controversies

**Unit 13: Treatment of Psychological Disorders: 2 Weeks**

* Treatment Approaches
  + Psychoanalysis
  + Humanistic
  + Behavioral Therapy
  + Cognitive Therapy
  + Drug Therapy
  + Effectiveness of Options
* Modes of Therapy
  + Group vs. Individual Approaches
* Community and Preventative Approaches
  + Cultural Differences
  + Community Resources

**Unit 14: Social Psychology- 2 Weeks**

* Group Dynamics
  + Asch Conformity Study
  + Milgram’s Study of Obedience
  + Polarization
  + Groupthink
* Attribution Process
* Attitudes and Prejudice
  + Role Playing
  + Discrimination
  + Cognitive-Dissonance Theory
* Aggression and Altruism
  + Approaches and views of aggression
  + Social Exchange
  + Social Norms