



AP Psychology: Spring 2019
Stephen Decatur High School
Instructor: Mrs. Bova
Room A170



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"A great many people think they are thinking, when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."
- William James

Course Objectives

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings.

- Students learn about some of the explorations and discoveries made by psychologists over the past century.
- Students assess some of the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives.
- Students come to an appreciation of how psychologists think, and develop an understanding of critical thinking, and the scientific method.
- Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the AP Psychology exam.
- Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the validity of research reports.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.

Required Material

Text: Psychology, 9th ed, AP Edition, Bernstein. 2012 Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Course Website: <http://sdhpsychology.weebly.com/>

Remind 101: directions for sign up will be given in class!

Supplies:

- Binder (including information from first semester)
- Dividers– one for each unit plus studies and review section
- Paper
- Pencils
- Jump Drive (optional)

Throughout the semester you will be taking notes from the textbook and lectures, and I will also provide you with a variety of handouts and articles that will benefit you as you study for each unit. All of these papers need to be kept in an organized fashion.

Optional Material: AMSCO Psychology: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam study book, available for \$18 online at

<https://www.amscopub.com/psychology-preparing-for-the-advanced-placement-examination-60057.html>

"It's all in the mind."
- George Harrison

"Mistakes are, after all, the foundation of truth, and if a man does not know what a thing is, it is at least an increase in knowledge if he knows what it is not."
- Carl Jung

Course Outline

See course calendar handout for dates!

- Social Psychology
- Motivation and Emotion
- Cognition and Memory
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Learning
- Personality
- Abnormal Behavior and Treatment for Abnormal Behavior

Grading Policy

The final course grade is a weighted average consisting of the following elements:

Quarterly grades: 80%

Final exam grade: 20%

Quarterly grades are made up of the following:

Participation (attendance and class discussion)

Classwork

Essays, papers, projects

Quizzes, exams

Course Expectations & Requirements

- You are enrolled in an Advanced Placement course that has the possibility to translate into college credit, therefore my expectation is that you are willing and prepared to work at a college level. You will be asked to complete readings and coursework outside of class time, be prepared.
- It is expected that students take the AP exam, those who do not will be required to complete an alternative assignment.
- Daily attendance and punctuality are required and ESSENTIAL for success. You are expected to come to class every day, on time. I suggest that you pair up with a reliable classmate in your class who is willing to share what transpired in class while you were out. It is your responsibility to make up all missed work. If you miss a test or a quiz, it is YOUR responsibility to make it up or schedule a mutually convenient time to do so. **NO LATE WORK OR PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
- Participation is crucial. Your best effort in all aspects of class will be beneficial to you and your grade.
- Ethics and academic honesty: Plagiarism is 100% unacceptable and will result in a ZERO (for all parties involved). Plagiarized assignment will NOT be allowed to be redone. When in doubt...cite! I am interested in what YOU have to say!

I am looking forward to an exciting semester!!!



"Through others become ourselves."

- Lev Vygotsky

"I think, therefore I can CHANGE what I am."

- Walter Mischel

In examining disease, we gain wisdom about anatomy and physiology and biology. In examining the person with disease, we gain wisdom about life."

- Oliver Sacks

