

Orange Unified School District
PSYCHOLOGY AP
Year Course

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

PREREQUISITES: Identified GATE students or SAT 9 or Norm referenced total reading - 80th percentile and AP Psychology instructor approval

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT:

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The aim of this AP course is to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory psychology courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

BY THE END OF THE COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

Describe the discipline of psychology by emphasizing the history of psychology as a science, the different theoretical approaches that underlie explanations of behavior, and the contemporary research methods used by psychologists.

Discuss the relationship between biology and behavior, resultant from a study of the brain and nervous system functions.

Understand the concept of threshold when studying sensation and perception in conjunction with sensory systems of the body.

Relate the various states of consciousness which are commonly experienced and their respective variations.

Describe the differences between learned and unlearned behavior stressed by classical conditioning and operant conditioning.

Distinguish the processes and strategies involved in cognitive psychology and how sensory input and coding contribute to the basis of knowledge.

Differentiate between early and present theories on how motivation and emotion influence behavior.

Explain the dimensions of developmental psychology, as well as the techniques, research designs, and theories which psychologists and others use to gather data.

Understand the major contributors of theories and approaches which define personality and how case studies and assessment techniques become valuable tools for diagnosis.

Explain the various tests used to assess human differences in aptitudes, intelligence, interest, and personality, as well as the issues generated by their use.

To introduce the study of abnormal psychology is with a discussion of the definition and diagnosis of abnormal behavior. Specific attention is given to the etiology and diagnostic criteria for the following disorders: mood, personality, dissociative, somatoform, anxiety, organic, and psychotic.

Students are introduced to the treatment of Psychological disorders through an overview of the approaches used by therapists of different treatment orientations. Behavioral, humanistic, psychoanalytic/psychodynamic, Gestalt, cognitive-behavioral, and pharmacological approaches to treatment are often discussed.

Discuss the impact of social factors on behavior using the basic concepts of social cognition, classic studies dealing with conformity, compliance and obedience, as well as the theoretical perspective of organizational behavior.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND APPROXIMATE UNIT TIME ALLOTMENTS:

FIRST SEMESTER

WEEKS

I.	Methods, Approaches, and History	2
A.	Logic, Philosophy, and History of Science	
B.	Approaches	
1.	Biological	
2.	Behavioral	
3.	Cognitive	
4.	Humanistic	
5.	Psychodynamic	
6.	Sociocultural	
C.	Experimental, Correlational; and Clinical Research	

WEEKS

D.	Statistics	
	1. Descriptive	
	2. Inferential	
E.	Ethics in Research	
II.	Biological Bases of Behavior	3
	A. Physiological Techniques (e.g., imaging, surgical)	
	B. Neuroanatomy	
	C. Functional Organization of Nervous System	
	D. Neural Transmission	
	E. Endocrine System	
	F. Genetics	
	G. Hereditary Influences on Behavior	
III.	Sensation and Perception	2
	A. Thresholds	
	B. Sensory Mechanisms	
	C. Receptor Processes	
	D. Sensory Adaptation	
	E. Attention	
	F. Perceptual Processes	
IV.	States of Consciousness	2
	A. Sleep and Dreaming	
	B. Hypnosis	
	C. Psychoactive Drug Effects	
V.	Learning	3
	A. Biological Factors	
	B. Classical Conditioning	
	C. Operant Conditioning	
	D. Cognitive Processes in Learning	
	E. Social Learning	
VI.	Cognition	2
	A. Memory	
	B. Language	
	C. Cognitive Processes	
	D. Problem Solving and Creativity	

WEEKS

VII.	Motivation and Emotion	2
	A. Biological Bases	
	B. Theories of Motivation	
	C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain	
	D. Social Motives	
	E. Theories of Emotion	
	F. Stress	
VIII.	Developmental Psychology	2
	A. Life Span Approach	
	B. Research Methods (e.g., longitudinal, cross-sectional)	
	C. Heredity/Environment Issues	
	D. Developmental Theories	
IX.	Developmental Psychology (Continued)	
	A. Dimensions of Development	
	1. Physical	
	2. Cognitive	
	3. Social	
	4. Moral	
	B. Gender Roles, Gender Differences	

SECOND SEMESTER

I.	Personality	3
	A. Personality Theories and Approaches	
	B. Research Methods (e.g., ideographic, nomothetic)	
	C. Assessment Techniques	
	D. Self-concept, Self-esteem	
	E. Growth and Adjustment	
	F. Conflict	
II.	Testing and Individual Differences	2
	A. Standardization and Norms	
	B. Reliability and Validity	
	C. Types of Tests	
	D. Ethics and Standards of Testing	
	E. Intelligence	
	F. Heredity/Environment and Intelligence	
	G. Human Diversity	

	<u>WEEKS</u>
III. Abnormal Psychology	3
A. Definitions of Abnormality	
B. Theories of Psychopathology	
C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology	
D. Anxiety Disorders	
E. Somatoform Disorders	
F. Mood Disorders	
G. Schizophrenic Disorders	
H. Organic Disorders	
I. Personality Disorders	
J. Dissociative Disorders	
IV. Treatment of Psychological Disorders	2
A. Treatment Approaches	
1. Insight Therapies: Psychodynamic/Phenomenological Approaches	
2. Behavioral Approaches	
3. Cognitive approaches	
4. Biological Therapies	
B. Modes of Therapy (e.g., individual, group)	
C. Community and Preventive Approaches	
V. Social Psychology	2
A. Group Dynamics	
B. Attribution Processes	
C. Interpersonal Perception	
D. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience	
E. Attitudes and Attitude Change	
F. Organizational Behavior	
G. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior	
VI. Review for AP Psychology Exam	2
VII. Final AP Psychology Projects and Activities	4
A. Observational Study	
B. Survey	
C. Design a Social Psychology Experiment with Basic Statistical Analysis	
D. Illustrate a Guide to Mental Disorder	
E. Design Children's Book on Sensation and Perception	
F. Develop Psychological Board Game	

DATE OF CONTENT REVISION: February 2002

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: March 14, 2002