

James B. Conant High School 2007-2008

Course: Advanced Placement Psychology  
Teacher: Jennifer Stearns, Social Studies Office- Room 213, 755-3826  
Email: [jstearns@d211.org](mailto:jstearns@d211.org)

Academic Information

I. Essential Course Outcomes

AP Psychology is a year long course designed 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. Students also learn about the ethics and methods of psychologists use in their science and practice. (This is from the *Advanced Placement Course Description for Psychology*, published by the College Board.)

Throughout this semester, topics will include: introduction to psychology, psychological perspectives, research methods, biological causes of behavior, sensation & perception, sleep & dreams, learning & memory, motivation & emotion, infancy & childhood, adolescence, adulthood, aging, personality theories, testing & individual differences, abnormal psychology, treatment of psychological disorders, and social psychology.

This course will provide students with an experience equivalent to an undergraduate introductory psychology course in college. Students will complete material that most colleges require for taking future courses in psychology. Students will be prepared for the Advanced Placement examination in Psychology administered in May by the College Board. Many undergraduate institutions recognize the AP program and grant credit or advanced standing to students who have done well on the AP Psychology test. Students need to check the policies of each college they are interested in attending. Credit, advanced placement, or both are awarded by the college or university the students attends, not the College Board or the AP program.

II. Grading System

98-100 A+	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-70 D+	64 ↓ F
93-97 A	83-87 B	74-77 C	65-67 D	
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	71-73 C-		

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 40% + 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 40% + Final 20% = Semester Grade

Debates & Active Participation ~ Chapter Tests & Essays ~ Article Review & Presentation ~  
Journals ~ In-Class Demonstrations & Exercises ~ Supplemental & Chapter Readings ~  
Written Assignments & Homework

***Grades are available to both students and parents through the district grade program.  
It is accessed through Conant Web Page- underParent/Student On-line access  
The student's school ID number and password are needed***

### III. Assessment System

Students are assessed through daily homework assignments, class participation, quizzes, tests, specific unit projects, and semester exams.

**Reading the textbook is vital to success in AP Psychology.** Each student will receive a copy of the textbook used for this class:

Book website. [www.worthpublishers.com/hockenbury](http://www.worthpublishers.com/hockenbury)

Daily preparation and review are necessary. If students do not study for class on a daily basis, success is much less likely. Given the nature of this fast paced, college-level course, it is simply very difficult to excel by putting in an hour or two of studying the night before the test.

### IV. Recommended Supplementary Books

Title of Book: *Barron's How To Prepare of the Advanced Placement Psychology Exam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*  
Authors: Robert McEntarffer & Allyson J. Weseley  
Copyright: 2004 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.  
ISBN# 0-7641-2349-1  
Retail Price: \$16.95  
Book with CD-ROM:  
ISBN# 0-7641-7909-8  
Retail Price: \$29.99

### Classroom Procedures

#### Make-up work due to an excused absence

It is your responsibility to see me and make arrangements for make-up work. All make-up work worksheets will be in the folder that correlates with this classroom hour. Your name will be on the necessary worksheets. Only missed worksheets will be in the folders. If we did other work besides worksheets, which we will often do, you need to see me in order to make-up the missed assignments. You may receive a comparable assignment instead of the original one. You will be given one day for each day of an excused absence to make-up work.

#### Late Work

Late assignments will suffer the following penalties...

1 day late ...1 grade down

2-4 days late ...1/2 credit

5 or more days late ... no credit will be given

EXTRA CREDIT: (cut-off is one week prior to the end of the quarter)

### Handing in Make-up work or Late work

Please write either “LATE” or “ABSENT” on any work that is handed in later than the due date.

### Making up a Test

Make-up tests and quizzes will be placed in Test Make Up (Room 105A). If you missed only the day of the quiz or test, it is to be made up on your own time and one day + one- after you return. The test or quiz will be marked down for each day’s delay. (For example, if the test was on a Monday and you were absent, the test must be made up by the end of the day on Wednesday).

### Extra Help

If you need extra help outside of class, please let me know so that I can set up a convenient time to work with you. Emails are encouraged.

### Classroom Rules

1. Be in the class when the bell rings
2. Bring all books and materials to class.
3. Respect others
4. Keep the room clean

### Cheating Policy

Cheating is defined as any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the teacher. Cheating includes aiding another student in cheating. Any student caught cheating on any type of assignment or test will have the following consequences:

1. Zero points will be given for that assignment or test
2. A referral to 105 will be filled out
3. Parents will be notified

### Current Events

Each student is required to complete two current event assignments per quarter. Each assignment consists of a summary for a local, national, and international current event. It should be summarized in your own words and presented to the class on your assigned days. It is your responsibility to remember your days. I may remind you as a courtesy.

AP Psychology Exam Date: \_\_\_\_\_, May \_\_\_\_ th

## AP Psych Test Design

- **Multiple Choice--100 multiple choice questions worth 2/3 of your final grade (70 minutes)**
- **Free Response--2 essay questions worth 1/3 of your final grade (50 minutes)**

### **Course Outline:**

- I. History and Approaches (2-4%)
  - A. Logic, Philosophy, and History of Science
  - B. Approaches
    1. Biological
    2. Behavioral
    3. Cognitive
    4. Humanistic
    5. Psychodynamic
    6. Sociocultural
- II. Methods (6-8%)
  - A. Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research
    1. Correlational (e.g., observational, survey, clinical)
    2. Experimental
  - B. Statistics
    1. Descriptive
    2. Inferential
  - C. Ethics in Research
- III. Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%)
  - A. Physiological Techniques (e.g., imaging, surgical)
  - B. Neuroanatomy
  - C. Functional Organization of Nervous System
  - D. Neural Transmission
  - E. Endocrine System
  - F. Genetics

- IV. Sensation and Perception (7-9%)
  - A. Thresholds
  - B. Sensory Mechanisms
  - C. Sensory Adaptation
  - D. Attention
  - E. Perceptual Processes
  
- V. States of Consciousness (2-4%)
  - A. Sleep and Dreaming
  - B. Hypnosis
  - C. Psychoactive Drug Effects
  
- VI. Learning (7-9%)
  - A. Biological Factors
  - B. Classical Conditioning
  - C. Operant Conditioning
  - D. Social Learning
  - E. Cognitive Processes in Learning
  
- VII. Cognition (8-10%)
  - A. Memory
  - B. Language
  - C. Thinking
  - D. Problem Solving and Creativity
  
- VIII. Motivation and Emotion (7-9%)
  - A. Biological Bases
  - B. Theories of Motivation
  - C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain
  - D. Social Motives
  - E. Theories of Emotion
  - F. Stress
  
- IX. Developmental Psychology (7-9%)
  - A. Life-Span Approach
  - B. Research Methods
  - C. Heredity-Environment Issues
  - D. Developmental Theories
  - E. Dimensions of Development
    - 1. Physical
    - 2. Cognitive
    - 3. Social
    - 4. Moral
  - F. Sex Roles, Sex Differences
  
- X. Personality (6-8%)
  - A. Personality Theories and Approaches
  - B. Idiographic and Monothetic Research
  - C. Assessment Techniques
  - D. Self-concept, Self-esteem

- E. Growth and Adjustment
  
- XI. Testing and Individual Differences (5-7%)
  - A. Standardization and Norms
  - B. Reliability and Validity
  - C. Types of Tests
  - D. Ethics and Standards in Testing
  - E. Intelligence
  - F. Heredity/Environment and Intelligence
  - G. Human Diversity
  
- XII. Abnormal Psychology (7-9%)
  - 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
  
- XIII. Treatment of Psychology Disorders (5-7%)
  - A. Treatment Approaches
    - 1. Insight Therapies:  
Psychodynamic/Phenomenological  
Approaches
    - 2. Behavioral Approaches
    - 3. Cognitive Approaches
  - B. Modes of Therapy
  - C. Community and Preventive Approaches
  
- XIV. Social Psychology (7-9%)
  - 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