

# AP Psychology (Social Studies)

Elective – Semester or Year – 11/12

Prerequisites: None

---

## Course Description

Advanced Placement Psychology is offered as a full-year or semester course. Students taking the course for the entire year are prepared to take the Psychology Advanced Placement (AP) examination for college credit. Students also have the option of taking just one semester and are able to take either first or second semester; however, one semester does not prepare a student for the AP exam. The course reminds students of how God has fearfully and wonderfully made and gifted them. Students are reminded and encouraged to use those gifts to achieve their personal goals and serve others. The course also increases the students' understanding of the challenges and opportunities individuals and groups may face.

## Course Goals

The Christian Teacher Will:

1. Teach psychology from a Christian worldview, which supplies the understanding that a person's nature is corrupted by sin. Study is also correlated with the truth that within the Christian, the new man also brings forth fruit wholly acceptable to God.
2. Encourage students to more fully appreciate and understand the psychological complexity and wonder of man as God's creation.
3. Provide instruction covering the history and schools of psychology, research methods, consciousness, learning and memory, personality disorders and therapy, and social psychology so that students will be prepared to take the Psychology Advanced Placement (AP) examination for college credit.
4. Faithfully seek to serve the students in their study, understanding, and application of the subject matter.

## Course Objectives

The successful student will be able to:

1. Have an enhanced appreciation of how fearfully and wonderfully God has made us.
2. Be prepared to take the Psychology Advanced Placement (AP) examination for college credit.

## Course Outline

Topics covered include the history and schools of psychology, research methods, consciousness, learning and memory, personality disorders and therapy, and social psychology. All study is from a Christian worldview, which supplies the understanding that a person's nature is corrupted by sin. Study is also correlated with the truth that within the Christian, the new man also brings forth fruit wholly acceptable to God.

These are the major content areas covered by the AP Psychology Exam, as well as the approximate percentages of the multiple-choice section that are devoted to each area. For a more thorough description of the exam's content, please see the preceding pages.

*Content Area*

- I. History and Approaches.....
  - A History of Psychology
  - B. Approaches
    - 1. Biological
    - 2. Behavioral
    - 3. Cognitive
    - 4. Humanistic
    - 5. Psychodynamic
    - 6. Sociocultural
    - 7. Evolutionary
    - 8. Biopsychosocial
  - C. Subfields in Psychology
  
- II. Research Methods .....
  - A Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research
  - B. Statistics
    - 1. Descriptive
    - 2. Inferential
  - C. Ethics in Research
  
- III. Biological Bases of Behavior .....
  - A Physiological Techniques (e.g., imaging, surgical)
  - B. Neuroanatomy
  - C. Functional Organization of Nervous System
  - D. Neural Transmission
  - E. Neuroplasticity
  - F. Endocrine System
  - G. Genetics
  - H. Evolutionary Psychology
  
- IV. Sensation and Perception .....
  - A Thresholds and Signal Detection Theory
  - B. Sensory Mechanisms
  - C. Attention
  - D. Perceptual Processes
- V. States of Consciousness .....
  - A Sleep and Dreaming
  - B. Hypnosis
  - C. Psychoactive Drug Effects
  
- VI. Learning .....
  - A Classical Conditioning
  - B. Operant Conditioning
  - C. Cognitive Processes
  - D. Biological Factors
  - E. Social Learning

- VII. Cognition .....
  - A. Memory
  - B. Language
  - C. Thinking
  - D. Problem Solving and Creativity
  
- VIII. Motivation and Emotion. ....
  - 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 .....
  - A. Life-Span Approach
  - B. Research Methods (e.g., longitudinal, cross-sectional)
  - C. Heredity-Environment Issues
  - D. Developmental Theories
  - E. Dimensions of Development
    - 1. Physical
    - 2. Cognitive
    - 3. Social
    - 4. Moral
  - F. Sex and Gender Development
  
- X. Personality .....
  - A. Personality Theories and Approaches
  - B. Assessment Techniques
  - C. Growth and Adjustment
  
- XI. Testing and Individual Differences .....
  - A. Standardization and Norms
  - B. Reliability and Validity
  - C. Types of Tests
  - D. Ethics and Standards in Testing
  - E. Intelligence
  
- XII. Abnormal Behavior. ....
  - A. Definitions of Abnormality
  - B. Theories of Psychopathology
  - C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
  - D. Types of Disorders
    - 1. Anxiety
    - 2. Somatoform
    - 3. Mood
    - 4. Schizophrenic
    - 5. Organic
    - 6. Personality
    - 7. Dissociative
  
- XIII. Treatment of Abnormal Behavior.....
  - A. Treatment Approaches
    - 1. Psychodynamic
    - 2. Humanistic

- 3. Behavioral
- 4. Cognitive
- 5. Biological
- B. Modes of Therapy (i.e., individual, group)
- C. Community and Preventive Approaches

- XIV. Social Psychology . . . . .
- 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
- H. Cultural Influences

Instructional Strategies

A number of different teaching approaches are used. These include: lecture, cooperative learning activities, small and large group discussions, independent research, videos, and self-study.

Grading Methods

Student's grades are based upon chapter tests, quizzes, workbook materials, class participation, special writing assignments, projects and semester exam.

Student Materials: Textbook

Classroom Procedures

1. Students should be in their seats when the bell rings and use the attendance time to review the objectives for the day's lesson and the material assigned for the day.
2. Students will always write a quiz when given and if they are absent
3. Homework must be turned in on time. If the student is absent, he/she will be allotted time for missing work depending upon days missed. (2 absences= 2 days to get it in.) Generally, if a student knows an absence in advance, assigned homework should be turned in before the absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what he/she missed while absent. Students should choose a student partner who can inform them about material missed and assist them with make-up work.
4. Cheating will result in receiving a failing grade on the assignment. Cheating a second time will result in failing the unit. Cheating a third time will result in failing the semester.
5. All students are expected to regard others as redeemed children of God.