LEARNING UNLIMITED PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**AP PSYCHOLOGY 2022 - 23 SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Ms. Beland **Room Location:** Science Lab

**Email:** sbeland@luschool.com **Course Website:**msbeland.weebly.com

**Course Description**:

AP Psychology is a challenging course that is equivalent to a college course and can possibly earn students a college credit, at their prospective post-secondary institution, by scoring well on the AP Exam in May. It is a course designed “to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of 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 sub fields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.” (Advanced Placement Course Description in Psychology) Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed.

**Course Objectives:**

* Introduce students to the scientific study of behavior.
* Students will demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and limits of various research techniques.
* Students will demonstrate and understanding of general psychology principles.
* Students will learn to view human behavior from the behavioral, cognitive, humanistic and biological perspectives.
* Students will demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and limits of individual perspectives and know the major research studies that support each of these perspectives.
* Students will be prepared to take the AP Exam.

**Course Text:**

* Myers, David G. (2016). Psychology (AP) (2th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

ISBN-10: 1-4641-1307-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-1307

 **\*\*Student is responsible for acquiring his/own textbook.\*\***

**Supplemental Resources:**

* A helpful, free website accompanies our textbook and can be accessed at http://www.macmillanlearning.com/Catalog/studentresources/MyersAP2e#. This site (from the publisher) has activities and simulations for the more challenging concepts, as well as self-quizzing to help you prepare for exams.
* Various websites for labs, current articles….such as [www.psychologytoday.com](http://www.psychologytoday.com)
* Instructor resources from numerous Psychology textbooks acquired from the APSI

**AP Exam Date:** May 17, 2023, 12 pm

**Course Content:**

AP Psychology is structured to enable students to practice skills while exploring course concepts. These skills form the basis of tasks on the AP Exam.

 **AP Psychology Skills:**

 **#1** – Concept Understanding (75-80%)

 **#2** – Data Analysis (8-12%)

 **#3** – Scientific Investigation (12-16%)

The following is an outline of the topics will be covered during this course. The percentages indicate the approximate emphasis that will be placed on that topic area both in this course and on the AP Psychology exam in May. The sequence of topics is approximate.

* UNIT 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology (10-14%)
* UNIT 2: Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%)
* UNIT 3: Sensation and Perception (6-8%)
* UNIT 4: Learning (7-9%)
* UNIT 5: Cognitive Psychology (13-17%)
* UNIT 6: Developmental Psychology (7-9%)
* UNIT 7: Motivation, Emotion & Personality (11-15%)
* UNIT 8: Clinical Psychology (12-16%)
* UNIT 9: Social Psychology (8-10%)

**Grades:**

Total points earned per term are weighted as follows:

* Assignments: Classwork, labs, homework – 50%
* Assessments: Quizzes, exams, projects – 50%

Your final grade is composed of:

* Summative Exam (mid-term) = 20%
* Terms (I, 2, 3, 4) – 20% each = 80%

**Grading scale:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **90-100% A**  | **80-89% B**  | **70-79% C**  | **65-69% D**  | **Below 65% F**  |

Grades are rounded to the nearest integer. Individual grade reports will be given to students periodically and students may check their progress and grades in **PowerSchool**.

**Course Policies:**

* During Quarter 1, late work will receive a **30% reduction** (after the 1st day) + an **additional 10% per day**, thereafter, grade reduction penalty. During Quarters 2-4, late work will NOT be accepted. Please speak with me to resolve problems you encounter (***before*** the due date!).
* Class attendance and participation is essential for success. It is your responsibility to clarify missed assignments with classmates or with me prior to the next class.
* No credit will be given for work missed due to an unexcused absence. All excused absence work, including labs, must be made-up within the excused absence time frame of 2 days per 1-day absence.
* Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date or by the date/time indicated.
* Requests for exceptions to these policies must be discussed with me in advance.
* Students are to submit only their own work for evaluation, to acknowledge the work and conclusions of others, and to do nothing that would provide an unfair advantage in their academic efforts. Students who fail to comply with the LUPS Disciplinary Code are subject to disciplinary action.
* Plagiarism and cheating will NOT be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or loss of credit for the class. Please cite references using APA format. Please refer to the appropriate section of the **Student Handbook** regarding consequences of this infraction.

**Student Success:**

* **Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class.** The course calendar (to be posted later) will indicate the dates by which reading assignments should be completed **before** class.
* Access to a computer or tablet will be required for assignments/projects and accessing daily lesson plans.
* Daily lessons, reading guides and extraneous resources may be posted on msbeland.weebly.com.
* Assignments will be submitted via the appropriate category in Ms. Beland’s AP PSYCHOLOGY Google Classroom
* I may need to contact you between classes through individual and group email messages. You are responsible for any messages, including assignments and schedule changes, I send via email. You also may contact me via email at sbeland@luschool.com.

**Classroom Rules:**

* Turn off cell phones and mp3 players during class. Approved digital devices, with signed consent form, may be utilized during class.
* All policies set forth in the LUPS Student Handbook must be adhered.

**Typical assignments:**

* Daily reading of the text. I cannot cover everything! Periodic assessments will be given to check on reading comprehension and completion.
* Vocabulary—psychology is very much a term-based subject. Knowing the vocabulary is essential for success in class. Terms should be defined in such a way that you understand them. You may create a card file of terms or create a notebook of terms.
* To remain current, article reviews will be assigned each semester. You may select a current article of your choice as long as it covers material that will be discussed during the quarter. You will summarize each article, identify major terms, relate the article to what we’ve discussed in class and try to apply it to your daily life. A formal informational sheet and rubric will be handed out at a later date.
* Individual and group projects will be assigned at various times during the year to research topics pertinent to the study of psychology.
* We will conduct in-class and out-of-class activities/experiments. An open-mind and your participation are important. Labs are conducted to be entertaining but more importantly to provide hands-on understanding of the subject matter.
* As time allows, we will watch videos or clips from videos to enhance our understanding of the course. You will be asked to critique the video/clip or answers questions related to the video/clip.

**Unit testing and THE Exam**

Unit tests in this course will be designed to reflect the types of questions that will appear on the AP Psychology Exam. The multiple choice sections will be **cumulative** in topics covered. Students will also write essays periodically, either as part of the test or as stand-alone assignments, which are similar to the types of free-response questions that appear on the AP Psychology exam.

The traditional AP Psychology Exam is a two-hour long examination and includes a 70-minute multiple-choice section consisting of **100** questions that accounts for two-thirds of the exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section made up of **two** questions that accounts for one-third of the exam grade. The free-response section will focus on concept application and research design.

AP Psychology Exam is originally scheduled for **May 12, 2020 (12 pm).**

**Trigger Warnings:**

***Trigger warnings*** *are alerts that teachers are sometimes expected to issue if something in a course might cause a strong emotional response. For example, some students have called for warnings that Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart describes racial violence and that F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby portrays misogyny and physical abuse, so that students who have been previously victimized by racism or domestic violence can choose to avoid these works, which they believe might “trigger” a recurrence of past trauma.*

A.P. Psychology is, by nature, a class that is completely saturated with adult material. As a result, providing trigger warnings for course content would be impractical due to the sheer volume of warnings that would be needed. To be clear, **I will not provide any “Trigger Warnings”** for any reading material, video clips, video or class discussion that is presented in this class or as an adjoining assignment.

 I will send parental permissions, for any rated R movies, home with students to show parents prior to viewing. I would ask concerned parents to preview the movie and, if they object, to write a note to return with the student. I will assign the student an alternative project.

**Disclaimers:** A.P. Psychology may contain any of the following adult material:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Language** | **Violence** | **Graphic images** | **Sexual Orientation** | **Sexual Content** | **Phobic Content** |
| - Swearing - Slurs (this includes words like “stupid” or “dumb”)- Dismissal of lived oppressions, marginalization, illness or differences- Talk of drug use (legal, illegal or psychiatric)- Discussions of -isms, shaming, or hatred of any kind racism, classism, hatred of cultures/ethnicities that differ from your own, sexism.  | - Abuse (physical, mental, emotional, verbal, sexual) - Child abuse/pedophilia- Self-injurious behavior (self-harm, eating disorders, etc - Kidnapping (forceful deprivation of/disregard for personal autonomy)- Rape - Suicide- Bullying- Serial Killers- References to mob behavior including genocide.  | - Descriptions/pictures of violence or warfare (including instruments of violence, such as knives or guns)- Descriptions/pictures of medical procedures (may contain blood or gore)- Images of sex organs (including internal)- Images of breasts - body images associated with eating disorders | - Transgender, degendering, or anti-trans\* views of bodies- Discussions of homophobia or hatred of sexualities or genders that differ from your own- sex positive concepts- Discussion of the nature vs. nurture debate on homosexuality. - Discussion of Alfred Kinsey’s work on homosexuality.  | - Discussions of sex - Pregnancy /childbirth- Discussion of the human orgasm and its various stages. - Discussions about sexual motivations, --“hook-up” culture or non-marital sex. - Discussions of sexual deviance including fetishes and proclivities. - Poly-amorous relationships | - Corpses, skulls or skeletons- Needles- Death or dying- Spiders- Insects- Snakes- Vomit- Blood- Serious injury- Anything that might inspire intrusive thoughts in people with OCD |
| \* This course may also contain material similar to that which is listed above but not mentioned explicitly.\*  |

**\*\* The harder you work for something, the greater you’ll feel when you achieve it!\*\***