

*"Human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitude of mind." --- William James*

**AP Psychology**  
2020-21

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**The Course**

AP Psychology is an introductory course that covers the material usually taught in a one-semester college class. The amount of reading and the quality of work expected will be comparable to that of a college level course. The class provides a basic overview of the many subfields within psychology. These include:

**Semester 1**

Stress and Health  
Research Methods  
Neuroscience and Behavior  
Nature and Nurture  
Developmental Psychology  
Sensation and Perception  
States of Consciousness  
Learning  
Memory

**Semester 2**

Cognition and Language  
Intelligence  
Motivation  
Emotion  
Personality  
Testing and Individual Differences  
Psychological Disorders  
Therapy  
Social Psychology

**Text and Resources**

Student Text:

- Myers, D. G. (2004). *Psychology (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. New York: Worth.

Recommended Review Guide

- McEntarffer, R. & Weseley, A. J. (2018). *Barron's AP Psychology 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's.

**Grades**

Grades are based on performance in several categories. During distance learning, grades will be more heavily weighted toward classwork and attendance.

- Attendance and participation 15%
- Classwork and Quizzes – 30%
- Chapter Exams – 30%
- Final Exam - 25%

Once we return to the classroom, chapter exams will be weighted more heavily (45%).

Because learning is most efficient when done a little at a time (see chapter 9), frequent quizzes and/or class assignments will be given to keep you on top of the material. Chapter exams will be in the format of the AP exam, with both multiple-choice and free response questions. The midterm and final exam will be cumulative, also in the format of the AP exam (100 Multiple Choice, 2 Free Response Questions). The final exam for each semester is mandatory, as required for all AP classes, even for students who meet the senior exemption requirements. Finals are given at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, and in late April, **before** the official AP exam.