The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

**College Course Equivalent**

The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course usually taken during the first college year.

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for AP Psychology. Students should be able to read a college-level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

Return

**Social Psychology (Chapter 18)**

**8–10% AP Exam Weighting**

**Attribution Theory and Person Perception**

**Attitude Formation and Attitude Change**

**Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience**

**Group Influences on Behavior and Mental Processes**

**Bias, Prejudice, and Discrimination**

**Altruism and Aggression /Interpersonal Attraction**

**Scientific Foundations of Psychology (Prologue and Chapter 1)**

**10–14% AP Exam Weighting**

**Introducing Psychology**

**Research Methods in Psychology**

**The Experimental Method**

**Selecting a Research Method**

**Ethical Guidelines**

**Biological Bases of Behavior (Chapter 2, 7)**

**8–10% AP Exam Weighting**

**Interaction of Heredity and Environment**

**The Endocrine System**

**Overview of the Nervous System and the Neuron**

**Neural Firing**

**Influence of Drugs on Neural Firing**

**The Brain**

**Tools for Examining Brain Structure and Function**

**The Adaptable Brain**

**Sleep and Dreaming**

**Sensation and Perception (Chapters 5 & 6)**

**6–8% AP Exam Weighting**

**Principles of Sensation**

**Principles of Perception**

**Visual Anatomy**

**Visual Perception**

**Auditory Sensation and Perception**

**Chemical Senses /Body Senses**

**Learning (Chapter 8)**

**7–9% AP Exam Weighting**

**Introduction to Learning**

**Classical Conditioning**

**Operant Conditioning**

**Social and Cognitive**

**Cognitive Psychology (Chapter 9, 10, 11)**

**13–17% AP Exam Weighting**

**Introduction to Memory**

**Encoding**

**Storing**

**Retrieving**

**Forgetting and Memory Distortion**

**Biological Bases of Memory**

**Introduction to Thinking and Problem Solving**

**Biases and Errors in Thinking**

**Introduction to Intelligence**

**Psychometric Principles and Intelligence Testing**

**Components of Language and Language Acquisition**

**Developmental Psychology (Chapter 3, 4)**

**7–9% AP Exam Weighting**

**The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood**

**Social Development in Childhood**

**Cognitive Development in Childhood**

**Adolescent Development**

**Adulthood and Aging**

**Moral Development**

**Gender and Sexual Orientation**

**Motivation, Emotion, and Personality (Chapter 12, 13 , 15)**

**11–15% AP Exam Weighting**

**Theories of Motivation**

**Specific Topics in Motivation**

**Theories of Emotion**

**Introduction to Personality**

**Psychoanalytic Theories of Personality**

**Behaviorism and Social Cognitive Theories of Personality**

**Humanistic Theories of Personality**

**Trait Theories of Personality**

**Measuring Personality**

**Clinical Psychology (Chapter 16, 17)**

**12–16% AP Exam Weighting**

**Introduction to Psychological Disorders**

**Psychological Perspectives and Etiology of Disorders**

**Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders**

**Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders**

**Trauma- and Stressor- Related, Dissociative, and Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders**

**Feeding and Eating, Substance and Addictive, and Personality Disorders**

**Introduction to Treatment of Psychological DisordersPsychological Perspectives and Treatment of Disorders ;Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments of Disorders**