

AP PSYCHOLOGY

Welcome. The Advanced Placement Psychology course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in Psychology. The course work prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses.

Admission to the Advanced Placement Psychology course is open to everyone, but the student's level of success will depend upon his/her commitment to the course. There is nothing wrong with a "C" in this course, as long as you are learning and putting in maximum effort. Failure to maintain at least a "C" average could be grounds for discontinuing your participation in the course.

Colleges determine enrollment and scholarships based on:

1. SAT scores
2. AP scores
3. # of AP classes taken
4. class rank
5. GPA

The reason colleges rank AP scores so high is because they mean something. GPA and Class Rank are relative to the individual school, but APUSH scores show how well you did against $\approx 400,000$ of the best and brightest. 22% will get 3's, 20% will get 4's, and the "Elite 8" will get 5's. Many colleges are now basing enrollment and giving fixed scholarship amounts based on your achieving the following levels of expertise:

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. (\$4,000)

AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. (\$8,000)

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, **and** grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. (\$12,000)

AP State Scholar: Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams **and then** the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken. (Full Ride)

National AP Scholar: Granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, **and** grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. (they will pay you)

AP courses will continue to be a benchmark for college admittance only as long as they continue to be demanding and rigorous classes. I could make this class easy, but you would be unprepared (for both the test AND for college) and lose thousands of dollars, or I can demand your best. We won't be taking a vote. If you aren't prepared to do this level of work then ask yourself: "self, why am I taking this class"? If the answer is: "my mommy makes me", "all my friends do", or "because I'm afraid of the mean kids in the regular classes", then drop right now. PLEASE!!!

I. Rules: don't disrupt the class.

II. Grading: Tests, FRQ's and Major Projects = 75%
 Daily grades including Quizzes = 25%

Tests: Each test will cover 3-4 chapters. The multiple choice part of the exam going to be 80 questions in 55 minutes. In Section II, they must answer one free-response questions in 30 minutes. The essay (FRQ) will count as a daily grade AND for a curve purchase. It will be graded exactly the same way the FRQ's are graded for the AP exam (scale is a 0-9). You will need to get at least a 4 in order to earn extra credit pts.

FRQ's: Free Response Question. 9=100, 8=95, 7=90, 6=85, 5=75, 4=70, 3=65, 2=Drop the class (see attached rubric). FRQ's are the test of whether one is, or isn't, a true scholar of psychology.

- III. Class Structure. I am a firm believer in the idea of Multiple Intelligences. I will try to challenge every student via methods that best fit their individual needs:
1. Lecture: There are times when massive amounts of material need to be covered in a relatively short amount of time. These will usually be Power Points, but they will have music, and video clips to enliven them.
 2. Experiments. I will frequently ask students to act as subjects in short psychological experiments.
 3. Quests: Using the competitive nature of human beings I will be pitting you against other classes and groups for major rewards.
 4. Socratic Seminars. Again, you must be prepared in order to participate. Non-participants will receive zeros.

The ONLY extra credit will be in the form of psychological readings. Once, and only once, you can choose to read a scholarly work of psychology (approved by me) and write a “reading journal”. This journal will be lengthy and in depth. It will be grade for Content and Analysis. It will NOT be a “book report” or something you can rip from the internet. It will be YOUR questions, impressions, interpretations and criticism of the work. I will have handouts on this later with a “suggested” list of books.

Good luck. PLEASE come see me whenever you feel you are confused, frustrated, underachieving, etc. I can't help you unless you tell me your problem. I am here before school every day at 7:30. My email is fergusonmc@lisd.net. Your grade will be about the same as it was in World History, unless you start reading and studying differently.

BUY A GOOD REVIEW BOOK FOR THE END OF THE YEAR REVIEW.
Or use the one I have linked to the “REVIEW” page on the main page.
THE TEST COMES 20 WEEKS AFTER THE LAST CLASS
YOU WILL ABSOLUTELY NEED TO REVIEW IF YOU WANT TO DO WELL.