



# Psychology 12AP

Ms. Burdeyny

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## Course Overview

### **Purpose**

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

### **Materials**

Wade, Tavis, Saucier & Elias. (2004). Psychology (Can. ed.). Toronto: Pearson.

### **Objectives**

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the AP Psychology Exam.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the validity of research reports.
4. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They will be able to recognize psychological principles when they encounter them in everyday situations.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.
6. Students will build their reading, writing and discussion skills.
7. Students will learn about psychology as a profession and become aware of the educational requirements that must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

### **Grading**

Each of the terms shall be structured as follows:

unit pass/fail assignments	20%
Chapter Tests	30%

1 Term exam	25%
1 Major Project	25%
Terms 1-4	80% of year end mark
Final Exam	20% of year end mark

**Reminder:** a grade of 73% (B) must be maintained throughout the year for students to be eligible to write the final AP exam in May.

## PSYCHOLOGY 12 AP

### Course Outline

Content Area	Chapters	Percentage of Course
I. History, Approaches and Methods	1,2,A	7-9%
A. Logic, Philosophy and History of Science		
B. Approaches		
C. Experimental, Correlational and Clinical Research		
D. Statistics		
E. Ethics in Research		
II. Biological Bases of Behavior	3,4,5	10-14%
A. Physiological Techniques		
B. Neuroanatomy		
C. Functional Organization of Nervous System		
D. Neural Transmission		
E. Endocrine System		
F. Genetics		
G. States of Consciousness		
III. Sensation and Perception	6	7-9%
A. Thresholds		
B. Sensory Mechanisms		
C. Sensory Adaptation		
D. Attention		
E. Perceptual Processes		
<b>Term 2</b>		
IV. Learning	7	7-9%
A. Biological Factors		
B. Classical Conditioning		
C. Operant Conditioning		
D. Social Learning		
E. Cognitive Processes in Learning		
V. Social Psychology	8	7-9%
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		
VI.	Cognition, Language and Intelligence	9,10	13-17%
A.	Memory		
B.	Language		
C.	Thinking		
D.	Problem Solving and Creativity		
E.	Testing and Individual Differences		
VII.	Motivation and Emotion	11,12	7-9%
A.	Biological Bases		
B.	Theories of Motivation		
C.	Hunger, Thirst, Sex and Pain		
D.	Social Motives		
E.	Theories of Emotion		

### Term 3

VIII.	Personality	13	6-8%
A.	Personality Theories and Approaches		
B.	Idiographic and Nomothetic Research		
C.	Assessment Techniques		
D.	Self-concept, Self-esteem		
E.	Growth and Adjustment		
IX.	Developmental Psychology	14	7-9%
A.	Life-Span Approach		
B.	Research Methods		
C.	Heredity-Environment Issues		
D.	Developmental Theories		
E.	Dimensions of Development		
F.	Sex Roles, Sex Differences		
X.	Health Psychology	15	2-4%
A.	Conflict		
B.	Stress		

### Term 4

XI.	Abnormal Psychology	16	7-9%
A.	Definitions of Abnormality		
B.	Theories of Psychopathology		
C.	Diagnosis of Psychopathology		
D.	Anxiety Disorders		

- E. Somatoform Disorders
- F. Mood Disorders
- G. Schizophrenic Disorders
- H. Organic Disorders
- I. Personality Disorders
- J. Dissociative Disorders

XII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders            17            5-7%

- A. Treatment Approaches
- B. Modes of Therapy
- C. Community and Preventive Approaches