

Advanced Placement Psychology Class Expectations

Psychology is the scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. This course addresses the objectives and standards of an entry level college or university Psychology course. Students will be exposed to the content of the Psychology AP exam and will be expected to take the exam. Advanced Placement Psychology is reading and writing intensive and very challenging. To pass the exam and gain college credit requires cooperation, a positive attitude, hard work, and strong communication.

Objectives and Standards

You must read through the course syllabus and also the AP Psychology Course description guide found on the **AP central** site (<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/home>). This is a guide for me as the instructor to what I will be teaching you on a daily basis. It is also the closest I can get as an instructor to knowing what material will be on the AP exam.

NOTE: The standards and objectives of this course are not the instructor's!! The material standards and objectives are derived from the college board! The Advanced Placement Psychology Exam which will be taken in May is not made by your instructor! It is made by the college board! This is why I cannot honestly tell you what specifically must be covered because I do not know what specific questions they will ask!!!!

It is important to acknowledge that you must go above and beyond knowing the basics of the material. It is not enough to simply comprehend material, you must be able to ANALYZE, SYNTHESIZE, AND EVALUATE the material!

As an Advanced Placement student, you must also realize that you cannot learn for a test, and once a test is given leave the material forever. All material will be assessed in May, and therefore, you must consistently review and apply previous material to new information.

There will also be questions or material on the AP exam that we will not have covered during the course on purpose. The college board does this to analyze how well you think on your feet. These questions are often a deciding factor for the college board to differentiate a score of a 3 from a 4, or a 2 from a 3, or a 4 from a 5 score.

This is an *ADVANCED* course! There is much more responsibility placed on you, the student! Attention must be given to the material outside of the class. Students who pass the exam usually do *better* than those students enrolled in the actual introductory course at colleges and universities!

Why is this?

The college board has extremely high expectations for those who take "college" material at the high school level, and if a student is to enter a university with college credit, they will have to know and apply concepts and knowledge gained beyond what students enrolling in their classes can do before and even after completing the course.

This class is not for those interested in status, or to just take an AP course. You need to have a sincere, genuine interest in Psychology.

I honestly believe that every student in this class is capable of learning the material and applying the material at an advanced level, but it requires time outside of class and hard work practicing and reviewing.

Because of these facts, much higher expectations and responsibilities will be placed upon you compared to other courses I instruct here at WHHS!

Materials needed:

1. Textbook
2. Writing utensil
3. notebook
4. Study guide
5. A positive and cooperative attitude

How will I as a student acquire a grade in Advanced Placement Psychology?

A grade is an expressive symbol of how much an individual knows, what they can do, and how well they can/did do it. As an instructor, this is very difficult to authentically assess. Your Advanced Placement Psychology grade may not reflect how hard or how long you worked or studied, but it will instead communicate how much you learned and how well you understand it.

Grading Scale:

100%-90% A This means that you have successfully demonstrated SUPERIOR comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class material. (This would be a score of a 5 on the AP exam)

89%-80% B This means you have successfully demonstrated ABOVE AVERAGE comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class material. (This would be a score of a 4 on the AP exam)

79%-70% C This means you have successfully demonstrated AVERAGE comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class material. (This would be a score of a 3 on the AP exam)

69%-60% D This means you have demonstrated BELOW AVERAGE comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class material. (This would be a score of a 2 on the AP exam)

59%-0% F This means you have NOT demonstrated adequate levels of comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class material. (This would be a score of a 1 on the AP exam)

What is meant by “class material”?

We will have daily activities in which your knowledge and abilities will be assessed in some manner such as short quizzes, formal quizzes/tests, formal papers, projects, activities, demonstrations, etc... Each assessment will come with detailed explanations and expectations. In other words, I will explain what you are expected to do, how to do it, and how you will be accountable for it!

As we progress through the quarter and semester, these activities will accumulate into a daily average that will communicate the general knowledge and abilities you have attained during this course.

As an instructor, I will do my very best to stay on top of the grading so you can observe the progress you make through the quarter and semester to avoid any kind of surprise notice of a lower than expected grade!

Types of material to be assessed:

1. Assignments (Roughly 10% of quarterly grades)
 - a. There will not be an enormous amount of daily material that will be turned in for credit, but there will be strict enforcement of guidelines for your own good as a student to be followed:
 - i. each assignment must be handed in on the due date in class.
 - ii. **ABSOLUTELY NO MATERIAL WILL BE ACCEPTED BEYOND THIS TIME UNLESS THERE IS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE AND THE INSTRUCTOR WILL FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES WITHIN THE WHHS HANDBOOK.**
 - iii. If the student was present when material was assigned, but absent when collected, the student must hand in the assignment immediately upon returning to the class.
2. Assessments of the standards and objectives (Roughly 30% of quarterly grades)
 - a. Each lesson will present or support a major objective.
 - b. Students will be formally assessed on many of these objectives.
 - c. If a student does not pass (80% is passing) understanding of an objective, they can have the opportunity to retake the assessment within 2 days of the entered grade of that assessment.
3. Tests (Roughly 40%-50% of quarterly grades)
 - a. There will usually be three to four chapter exams per quarter.
 - b. They will consist of multiple choice and essays.
 - c. If a student was absent before the exam, but was made aware of the exam, they will be expected to take the exam on the exam day.
 - d. If a student was absent during the day of the exam, they will be expected to complete the exam immediately upon their return.
4. Projects and Essays (Roughly 10%-20% of quarterly grades)
 - a. There will be many minor projects to complete and several practice essays in each unit.
 - b. Essays will usually be timed and turned in before the end of class. No exceptions.
 - c. Projects must be handed in on the due date in class.
 - d. **ABSOLUTELY NO MATERIAL WILL BE ACCEPTED BEYOND THE DUE DATE UNLESS THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR!**

SEMESTER EXAM/PROJECT

At the end of the first semester, you will be given a cumulative exam of the first semester material that was covered. It will consist of multiple choice and essay.

At the end of the second semester, you will be assigned a final project to complete that will display your understanding of the course material and application to real life.

Each will be worth up to 10% of your SEMESTER GRADE.

It is your responsibility to check what you missed if you were absent.

It is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding your progress in AP Psychology.

It is your responsibility to be prepared for class and have a positive attitude towards lessons, activities, and discussions!