



## SUBSIDIARY COURSE AGREEMENT AND SYLLABUS

**Course: Advanced Placement Psychology**  
**Subject Teacher: Kris Rodenberg**

**Course Number: 6835**  
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### DESCRIPTION OF SEMESTER COURSE

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Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology is an introductory college-level course. The content of this curriculum supports students in becoming knowledgeable of the systematic study of behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The disciplines of study within the field of psychology are vast; therefore, in designing this course the ultimate goal is to prepare students for the College Board AP Psychology examination.

The curriculum is modeled after introductory college level Psychology survey courses and reflects the College Board A.P. Psychology course description. The two-semester course includes study of key aspects of psychology, ranging from investigative methodologies to personality development. Given the vast range of topics and study foci, this course must be fast-paced. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the lectures and supplemental activities offered on alternating Friday mornings.

The goal of this course is to prepare students to be successful in taking and “passing” the College Board AP Psychology examination. Many higher education institutions accept a score of “3” or higher as equivalent to their introductory level courses. Periodic tests and quizzes are given throughout the year (check class web page for dates), using the format of the AP Psychology Exam with multiple choice, short answer, and longer essay questions. Monthly reading notes, specific content-related tasks, and outside readings are required.

### OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF STUDY

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1. Read text selections as described in monthly assignment packets and complete all written tasks. Additional outside readings are occasionally assigned in conjunction with the adopted textbook.
2. Participate in the weekly class sessions. The lecture/presentation content will support the foci of study each month and provide opportunities to practice working with AP exam content and format.

3. Monthly written work includes thoughtful note-taking for each assigned chapter. The text provides chapter summaries that are useful in outlining students' own notes.
4. Show best effort and progress over the course of the semester. To accomplish this, all work must be original. Plagiarism, or any other form of cheating, is grounds for disciplinary action, including a zero on that assignment.
5. Turn in all parts of the monthly assignment packet each month, with the cover sheet attached, on time to receive timely feedback on the work.
6. Spend time reviewing vocabulary each month to develop the lexicon of a psychologist. This includes not only knowing definitions of words, but also investigating their roots, etymologies, and derivations.

## RESOURCES

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- *Myers' Psychology for AP*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. David G. Myers & Any Findburg. B F Worth Publishers a Macmillan Higher Education Company, New York, NY. 2014
- *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP Psychology Examination*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Allison Herzig, Laura Brandt, & Nathaniel Naughton. B F Worth Publishers a Macmillan Higher Education Company, New York, NY, 2014
- Directed monthly assignments, weekly class seminars, student-led study sessions, and tutoring *by appointment*
- AP Examination information <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jspf>

## MONTHLY TOPICS, CHAPTER CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

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Month	Focus Topic (s)
1	Introduction to the field of psychology including: history, research methods, testing, and individual differences
2	Biological basis of behavior and brain structures
3	Sensation & perception and states of consciousness
4	Learning and cognition
5	Motivation, behaviorism, and emotion
6	Developmental psychology and personality
7	Abnormal behavior and treatment for abnormal behavior
8	Social psychology
9	Cumulative course review and AP exam
10	Application of psychological concepts in book review

## EVALUATION CRITERIA AND METHODS

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Assignments are typical of college coursework in that sometimes readings are assigned and tested, but not discussed during a class session. Due dates are absolute deadlines unless there is documentation of illness. Each month, we practice the AP exam, including time limits, so students are expected to take the end of unit exams during the normally scheduled class period. Taking a test after the class period

will result in a 5% grade penalty unless prior authorization was given. Monthly assignments submitted after the due dates cannot earn full credit and is subject to a 10% point reduction. Academic grades are based on the quality and accuracy of work submitted.

In keeping with the SDUSD procedure #5121, the following grades will be used (there is no extra credit in this college-level course)

- "A" = superior achievement.
- "B" = above average achievement.
- "C" = satisfactory achievement.
- "D" = below average achievement.
- "F" = failure (credit not granted).
- "I" = Incomplete.
- "NC" = No Credit

## SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES

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- Communicate effectively through reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Think and solve problems independently and critically.
- Demonstrate the confidence, resilience, and self-esteem to succeed in life.
- Use resources, including technology, to locate needed information.
- Demonstrate good citizenship and personal integrity.

