**Advanced Placement Psychology**

**What is Psychology?**

Psychology is the systematic, scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Psychology strives to answer questions about how and why we act, think, and feel as we do.

**Course Overview:**

Advanced Placement Psychology is a year-long course exploring the theories, facts, ideas, and concepts associated with each of the major areas within psychology. It is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college course in psychology. It is expected that students will be self-motivated and prepared to accept the responsibility of a college level course.

**Class Format:**

The course units will coincide with the learning objectives for the major content areas covered in the AP Psychology Exam. A variety of resources and activities will be used in the class including: lectures, discussions, readings, cooperative activities and independent work. Each unit will conclude with a test designed to prepare students for the AP exam in May.

**Topics:**

(1) History and Approaches, (2) Research Methods, (3) Biological Bases of Behavior, (4) Sensation and Perception, (5) States of Consciousness, (6) Learning, (7) Cognition, (8) Motivation and Emotion, (9) Development Psychology, (10) Personality, (11) Testing and Individual Differences, (12) Abnormal Psychology, (13) Treatment of Abnormal Behavior, and (14) Social Psychology.

**Expectations:**

This class requires strong reading, writing, critical thinking, and discussion abilities. Students should expect several hours of homework per week for this course. It is imperative that students are committed to completing the work and coming to class prepared.

**AP Psychology Exam:**

The AP Psychology Exam consists of a 70-minute multiple-choice section that accounts for two-thirds of the exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section made up of two free response questions that accounts for one-third of the exam grade.

**For more information go to:**

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-psychology>

**Contact Information:**

Laura Miller

Voice Mail: 803-5678

E-mail: laura.miller@ftcsc.k12.in.us

**Content Outline**:

I. History and Approaches

A. Philosophy and History of Science

B. Theoretical Approaches to Psychology

II. Research Methods

A. Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research

B. Statistics

C. Ethics in Research

III. Biological Bases of Behavior

A. Functional Organization of Nervous System

B. Neural Transmission

C. Genetics

IV. Sensation and Perception

A. Thresholds and Signal Detection Theory

B. Sensory Mechanisms

C. Attention

D. Perceptual Processes

V. States of Consciousness

A. Sleep and Dreaming

B. Hypnosis

VI. Learning

A. Classical Conditioning

B. Operant Conditioning

C. Cognitive Processes

VII. Cognition

A. Memory

B. Thinking

VIII. Motivation and Emotion

A. Biological Bases

B. Theories of Motivation

C. Hunger, Thirst, and Pain

IX. Developmental Psychology

A. Research Methods (e.g., longitudinal, cross-sectional)

C. Heredity–Environment Issues

D. Developmental Theories

X. Personality

A. Personality Theories and Approaches

B. Assessment Techniques

XI. Testing and Individual Differences

A. Standardization and Norms

B. Reliability and Validity

C. Types of Tests

XII. Abnormal Behavior

A. Definitions of Abnormality

B. Types of Disorders

XIII. Treatment of Abnormal Behavior

A. Treatment Approaches

B. Modes of Therapy (i.e., individual, group)

XIV. Social Psychology

A. Group Dynamics

B. Attribution Processes

C. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience

D. Attitudes and Attitude Change

E. Cultural Influences