

AP Psychology Syllabus

Course Objective

Text Book and Test

Text: David Myers, *Psychology* 8th Edition (New York: 2006)

Test: Myers Test Bank 7th and 8th edition

Teacher Resources:

Instructor's resource binder

The Critical Thinking Companion by Jane Halonen & Cynthia Gray

Activities Handbook for the Teaching of Psychology Vol 4 by Benjamin, Nodine, Ernst & Broeker

The Dana Foundation's Brain in the News Newspaper

The Brain Teaching Modules 3DVD set

Stanford Prison Experiment DVD

Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological Research by Roger R. Hock

Annenberg Media DVD set

Psychology Today Magazine

Scientific American Mind Magazine

Memberships

American Psychological Association

Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools

Test

Assessment will occur at the end of each unit. Test will be cumulative and timed.

Test will consist of multiple choice and essay.

Course Plan

1st Semester

Week 1

I. History and Approaches

A. Psychological Roots

1. Prescientific Psychology
2. Contributors: Wundt, Darwin, Hall, James, Freud, Watson

B. Contemporary Psychology

1. Three Main Levels of Analysis
2. Psychology's Subfields

Week 2 and 3

II. Research Methods Thinking Critically

A. Need for Psychological Science

1. Limits of intuition and Common Sense
2. Scientific Attitude
3. Scientific Method

B. Description

1. Case Study
2. The Survey
3. Naturalistic Observation

C. Correlation

1. Correlation and Causation
2. Illusory Correlations
3. Random Events

D. Experimentation

1. Cause and Effect
2. Evaluating Therapies
3. Independent and Dependent Variables

E. Statistical Reasoning

1. Describing Data
2. Making Inferences

Week 4 and 5

III. Neuroscience and Behavior

A. Neural Communication

1. Neurons and Communication
 2. How Neurotransmitter Influence us
 3. Agonistic vs. Antagonistic
- B. Nervous System
1. Peripheral Nervous System
 2. Central Nervous System
- C. Endocrine System
1. Label structures and functions worksheet
 2. Hormones and effects on behavior

Week 6

- D. Brain
1. Older Brain Structures
 2. Cerebral Cortex
 3. Broca, Wernicke, Fritsch, Hitzig, Penfield, Gall
 4. Hemisphere Specialization
 5. Brain Module DVD
 6. Brain Label Activity
 7. Divided Brain
 8. Split Brain Activity

Week 7 and 8

IV. Nature vs. Nurture and Human Diversity

- A. Behavior Genetics
- B. Evolutionary Psychology
- C. Parents and Peers
- D. Cultural Influences
- E. Gender Development

Week 9

V. States of Consciousness

- A. Sleep and Dreams
 1. Circadian Rhythms
- B. Questionnaire: owl or lark?
 2. Sleep Stages
 3. Sleep Disorders
 4. Dreams

- C. Sleep Activity
- D. Hypnosis
 - 1. Facts and Falsehoods
- E. Activity can you be Hypnotized
- F. Video: Zimbardo Hypnosis
- G. Drugs and Consciousness
 - 1. Dependence and Addiction
 - 2. Psychoactive Drugs
 - 3. Addictive Behaviors
- H. Gambling, Shopping, Eating, Smoking

Week 10 and 11

VI. Developing Through the Life Span

- A. Prenatal Development and the Newborn
 - 1. Conception
 - 2. Prenatal Development
 - 3. Newborn
- B. Infancy and Childhood
 - 1. Physical Development
 - 2. Social Development
 - 3. Erickson's Eight Ages of Man
 - 4. Kohlberg's Moral Reasoning
 - 5. Activity: Bring a toy and explain how it helps
 - 6. Cognitive Development
- C. Piaget' Stages
 - 1. Group Demonstration: Each of Piaget's stages
 - 2. Activity: Can you pick the stage
- D. Issues
 - 1. Continuity and Stages
 - 2. Stability and Change

Week 12

VII. Personality

- A. Psychoanalytic Perspective
 - 1. Levels of Consciousness
 - 2. Neo-Freudian and Psychoanalytic Perspective

- B. Humanistic Perspective
 - 1. Maslow's Self-Actualizing Person
 - 2. Carl Rogers' Person-Centered Perspective
 - 3. Assessing the Self
- C. Activity: Personality Test
- D. Trait Perspective
 - 1. Exploring and Assessing Traits

Week 13, 14 and 15

VIII. Sensation

- A. Basic Principles
 - 1. Thresholds
- B. Top-down processing
- C. Activity: Subliminal messages; Backmasking
 - 1. Sensory Adaptation
- D. Vision
 - 1. Stimulus Input: Light Energy
 - 2. Eye
 - 3. Visual Information Processing
 - 4. Color Vision
- E. Activity: Pencil and Peripheral vision
- F. Hearing
 - 1. Sound Waves
 - 2. The Ear
- G. Touch, Taste, Smell
 - 1. Video: Phantom Limb
 - 2. Benefits of Touch
 - 3. Activity: Supertaster or Nontaster?
 - 4. Read: Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

IX. Perception

- A. Selective Attention
 - 1. Activity: Black t-shirt vs. White Shirts
 - 2. Activity: Penny Characteristics
- B. Illusions
 - 1. Activity: Make an Illusion book
- C. Perceptual Organization
 - 1. Depth Perception

- 2. Motion Perception
- 3. Perceptual Constancy
- D. Perceptual Interpretation
 - 1. Sensory Deprivation & Restored Vision
 - 2. Adaptation
 - 3. Perceptual Set
 - 4. Perception and the Human Factor
- E. Extrasensory Perception
 - 1. Claims of ESP
 - 2. Premonitions or Pretensions
 - 3. Testing ESP

Week 16 and 17

- X. Treatment of Psychological Disorders (Therapy)
 - A. Psychological Therapies
 - B. Psychoanalysis
 - C. Transference, Free Association, Hypnosis
 - 1. Humanistic Therapies
 - 2. Behavior Therapies
 - D. Aversion therapy
 - E. Token economies
 - 1. Cognitive Therapies
 - 2. Group and Family Therapies
 - 3. Activity: Name that Disorder
 - F. Evaluating Psychotherapies
 - 1. Is Psychotherapy Effective
 - 2. Commonalities among Psychotherapies
 - G. Biomedical Therapies
 - 1. Drug Therapies
 - 2. Brain Stimulation
 - 3. Psychosurgery

Week 18

Nine Weeks Test

Winter Break

2nd Semester

Week 1 and 2

XI. Motivation and Emotion

A. Perspectives on Motivation

1. Instincts and Evolutionary Psychology
2. Drives and Incentives
3. Hierarchy of Motives

B. Hunger

C. Sexual Motivation

D. Need to Belong

F. Motivation at Work

XII. Emotion

A. Theories of Emotion

B. Embodied Emotion

D. Expressed Emotion

E. Experienced Emotion

Week 3 and 4

XIV. Learning

A. How we Learn

B. Classical Conditioning

1. Pavlov's Experiments
 - a. Video: Classical Conditions
 - b. Video: Little Albert
2. Extending Pavlov's Understanding
3. Pavlov's Legacy

C. Operant Conditioning

1. Skinner's Experiments
 - a. Video: Skinner's Operant Conditioning

2. Extending Skinner's Understanding
 3. Skinner's Legacy
- D. Bandura's Experiments

Week 5 and 6

XV. Memory

- A. Encoding or Getting Information In
 1. How we Encode
 2. What we Encode
- B. Storage or Retaining Information
 1. Sensory Memory
 2. Short-Term Memory
 3. Long-Term Memory
- C. Retrieval
- D. Forgetting
 1. Encoding Failure
 2. Storage Decay
 3. Retrieval Failure
- E. Memory Construction
 1. Source Amnesia
 2. True and False Memories
 3. Eyewitness Recall
 4. Repressed or Constructed Memories of Abuse

XVI. Thinking and Language

- A. Thinking
 1. Concepts
 2. Problem Solving
- B. Language
 1. Language Structure
 2. Language Development
- C. Thinking and Language
 1. Language Influences Thinking
 2. Thinking in Images
- D. Animal Thinking and Language
 1. Do Animals Think
 2. Do Animals Exhibit Language
 3. Language and Apes

Week 7

XVII. Intelligence

- A. What is Intelligence
 - 1. What makes up Intelligence
 - 2. Emotional Intelligence
 - 3. Intelligence and Creativity
 - 4. Is intelligence Neurologically Measurable
- B. Assessing Intelligence
 - 1. Origins of Testing
 - 2. Modern Tests
 - 3. Principles of Test Construction
- C. Dynamics of Intelligence
 - 1. Stability or Change
 - 2. Extremes of Intelligence
- D. Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence
 - 1. Genetic Influences
 - 2. Environmental Influences
 - 3. Group Differences in Intelligence Test Scores
 - 4. Question of Bias

Week 8 and 9

XVIII. Stress and Health

- A. Stress and Illness
 - 1. Stress and Stressors
 - 2. Stress and the Heart
 - 3. Stress and Susceptibility to Disease
- B. Promoting Health
 - 1. Coping with Stress
 - 2. Managing Stress
- C. Thinking Critically
 - 1. Modifying Illness-Related Behaviors
 - 2. Health or Old Snake Oil

Week 10 and 11

XIX. Disorders or Abnormal Psychology

A. Perspectives on Psychological Disorders

1. Defining Psychological Disorders
2. ADHD ?
3. Understanding Psychological Disorders
4. Classifying Psychological Disorders
5. Labeling Psychological Disorders
6. DSM IV

B. Anxiety Disorders

1. Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Panic Disorder
2. Phobias
3. Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
4. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

C. Mood Disorders

1. Major Depressive Disorder
2. Bipolar Disorder

D. Schizophrenia

1. Symptoms of Schizophrenia
2. Subtypes of Schizophrenia
3. Understanding Schizophrenia

Week 12 and 13

XX. Social Psychology

A. Social Thinking

1. Attributing Behavior to Persons or Situations
2. Attitudes and Actions

B. Social Influence

1. Conformity and Obedience
2. Group Influence

C. Social Relations

1. Prejudice
2. Aggression
3. Conflict
4. Attraction
5. Altruism

Week 14

XI. Take Practice Test

- A. Review Weak Areas
- B. Fine Tune Essay Writing

Week 15

XII. Review for AP Test

Week 16

XIII. AP Exam

Week 17 and 18

XIV. Research Project