

AP Psychology / James Etheridge
Course Syllabus
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Course Objectives

This course aims to answer the question: “how do psychologists think?” A psychologist, David Myers, wrote that to think as a psychologist, one must learn to “restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgment with compassion, and illusion with understanding” (Sternberg, 1997). Whether you choose to pursue a career related to psychology or one in some entirely different field, this habit of mind will be of great value.

This class will encourage you to...

- ✓ *explore discoveries made by psychologists over the past century*
- ✓ *assess the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, evolutionary, and socio-cultural perspectives*
- ✓ *appreciate the kind of critical analysis that psychologists take on and model in their words and actions*
- ✓ *develop a unique understanding of yourself and others*

Recipe for Success!

1. Read and take notes on assigned sections/chapters from the textbook. Be ready for reading quizzes.
2. Learn and continuously review vocabulary words.
--“If you can read, learn, and think, you’ll pass!”
3. Complete online/written assignments.
4. Participate in discussions and demonstrations.
5. Maintain a comprehensive and organized notebook.
6. Take pride in projects.
7. Study and succeed on chapter tests.
8. In class and on time.
9. Think positively.

The “Nuts & Bolts” of Class

- Expect to complete all reading assignments at home. You do NOT need to bring your textbook to class as long as your notes remain up-to-date. Class time is for activities, demonstrations, drills, lectures, and learning exercises.
- Attendance is a must! *There is a direct correlation between poor attendance and poor grades.*
- Tardies will NOT be tolerated. *Expect to miss grade opportunities if you’re late.*
- Late work will NOT be accepted. Call or e-mail if a major life stressor occurs. Otherwise, deal with it. Ninety-percent of life is showing up. Just do it.

Necessary Materials

- ❑ A notebook (3-ring binder. Expect for random checks!)
- ❑ A set of colored pens (at least 6) or highlighters
- ❑ A textbook: Myers, D. G. (2011). *Myers’ psychology for AP*. New York: Worth Publishers.
- ❑ Recommended but not required: Barron’s *How to Prepare for the AP Psychology Exam* or any other ap review book or app!

What Will Make for an Optimal Learning Environment

A Safe Place

1. No put downs or disrespectful remarks.
2. Speak up if your boundaries are violated.

A Work Place

3. You are here to learn and I am here to teach. Don't waste our time.
4. Avoid disruptive talk or expect to be reseated.

A Great Place

5. Challenge your comfort zone. Let's have some fun and risk trust. Great things happen when we let them happen. You never know you might grow.

Approximate Grading Policy

Tests	45%
Notebook & Reading Quizzes	20%
Projects & Other Assignments	25%
Class Participation	10%

The Purpose of Taking an AP (*Advanced Placement*) Course

"Most colleges and universities in the U.S., as well as colleges and universities in 21 other countries, have an AP policy granting incoming students credit, placement, or both on the basis of their AP Exam grades. Many of these institutions grant up to a full year of college credit (sophomore standing) to students who earn a sufficient number of qualifying AP grades..." (excerpt from *AP Psychology Course Description*)

Our Commitment to the AP Curriculum & Test

We are in this together. You have my promise that I will do everything possible to prepare you for the AP test. This is a college-level course that will move at a college-level pace; nevertheless, your success is my priority and expectation. As a teacher, student, and psychology "groupie," I've learned a few things about preparing for tests. Here's what I plan to coach you on...

