

West Linn–Wilsonville School District
Social Studies Department – Course Statement

Course Title: Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 2
Grade Level: 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: Instructor Approval
CIM Work Samples
Offered in Course: Persuasive writing (research paper)

Date of Description/Revision: June 2006

Course Overview

This is a college-level psychology course. Curriculum will be driven by the national course outline with a concentration on the basic principles of experimental and clinical psychology. Topics will include but not be limited to: research, ethics, normal and abnormal human development, and clinical intervention. Students will engage in research, extensive reading, and interact with practitioners from the mental health community. Upon completion of the course, a student should possess a basic understanding of psychological concepts and be prepared for the AP exam in the spring. Essential is a high level of commitment to scholarship and a willingness to accept responsibility for one's own learning experience.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- How has psychology changed from a study of philosophy to a social science?
- What accounts for why people behave the way they do?
- How do people and animals learn new tasks, information, and languages?
- How should psychological disorders be treated?
- How do psychologists define and categorize abnormal behavior?
- What is intelligence and how can we measure it?
- How does the environment impact human behavior?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

- Conduct psychological research.
- Evaluate psychological research designs and findings.
- Apply key terms from the study of psychology.
- Identify key psychologists and studies from within the field.

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General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<p><u>Semester 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. History and Approaches of Psychology as a Science B. Research Methods C. Relationship Between Biology, Brain, and Behavior D. Human development E. Sensation and Perception F. States of Consciousness G. Learning H. Cognition <p><u>Semester 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Motivation and Emotion J. Stress and Health K. Personality L. Testing, Intelligence, and Individual Differences M. Abnormal Psychology N. Treatment of Psychological Disorders O. Social Psychology 	
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: <i>Psychology, 7th Edition, In Modules</i>, David G. Myers, Worth Publishers, 2004 Companion Guides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Pursuing Human Strengths: A Positive Psychology Guide</i> ○ <i>Critical Thinking Companion, 2nd Edition</i> ○ <i>Improving the Mind and Brain: A Scientific American Special Issue</i> ○ <i>The Scientific American Reader to Accompany Myers</i> • Text: <i>Introduction to Psychology, 7th Edition</i>, Rod Plotnik, Wadsworth Publishing, 2005 • Other: <i>Discovering Psychology with Phillip Zimbardo, Updated Edition</i>, Annenberg/CPB Video Series, 2001 	