



**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE SYLLABUS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

SPS250, AP® PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

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Course Description:

The purpose of AP® Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. A variety of activities, demonstrations and projects will be provided to meet this goal of instructing scientific and empirical approaches.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the AP® Psychology Exam.
2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use them in their everyday vocabulary.
3. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.
4. Students will develop critical thinking skills.

Textbook:

Myers' Psychology for AP® (Second Edition)
Worth Publishers, 2014
Author: David G. Myers

Course Outline:

1. History and Approaches
 - a. History of Psychology
 - b. Approaches
 - c. Subfields in Psychology

2. Research Methods
 - a. Experimental, Correlational and Clinical Research
 - b. Statistics
 - c. Ethics in Research

3. Biological Bases of Behavior
 - a. Physiological Techniques
 - b. Neuroanatomy
 - c. Functional Organization of Nervous System
 - d. Neural Transmission
 - e. Neuroplasticity
 - f. Endocrine System
 - g. Genetics
 - h. Evolutionary Psychology

4. Sensation and Perception
 - a. Thresholds and Signal Detection Theory
 - b. Sensory Mechanisms
 - c. Attention
 - d. Perceptual Processes

5. States of Consciousness
 - a. Sleep and Dreaming
 - b. Hypnosis
 - c. Psychoactive Drug Effects

6. Learning
 - a. Classical Conditioning
 - b. Operant Conditioning
 - c. Cognitive Process
 - d. Biological Factors
 - e. Social Learning

7. Cognition
 - a. Memory
 - b. Language
 - c. Thinking
 - d. Problem Solving and Creativity

8. Motivation and Emotion
 - a. Biological Bases
 - b. Theories of Motivation
 - c. Hunger, Thirst, Sex and Pain
 - d. Social Motives
 - e. Theories of Emotion
 - f. Stress

9. Developmental Psychology
 - a. Life-Span Approach
 - b. Research Methods
 - c. Heredity-Environmental Issues
 - d. Developmental Theories
 - e. Dimensions of Development
 - f. Sex and Gender Development

10. Personality
 - a. Personality Theories and Approaches
 - b. Assessment Techniques
 - c. Growth and Adjustment

11. Testing and Individual Differences
 - a. Standardization and Norms
 - b. Reliability and Validity
 - c. Types of Tests
 - d. Ethics and Standards in Testing
 - e. Intelligence

12. Abnormal Behavior
 - a. Definitions of Abnormality
 - b. Theories of Psychopathology
 - c. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
 - d. Types of Disorders

13. Treatment of Abnormal Behavior
 - a. Treatment Approaches
 - b. Modes of Therapy
 - c. Community and Preventive Approaches

14. Social Psychology
 - a. Group Dynamics
 - b. Attribution Processes
 - c. Interpersonal Perception
 - d. Conformity, Compliance and Obedience
 - e. Attitudes and Attitude Change
 - f. Organizational Behavior
 - g. Cultural Influences

Student Responsibility:

1. **Class Participation:** Each of you will be expected to take part in discussions on your own and/or when called upon. Your willingness and ability to contribute to our discussions will be considered as part of your grade. Oral presentations will be conducted by each student.
2. **Homework:** Both short-term assignments and long-term projects and research will require your attention at home. Work will be completed prior to the start of class on its given due date. **Late work will not be accepted.**
3. **Attendance:** Attendance is vital! Should you miss class, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you have missed by asking the instructor and/or classmate. You have the same number of days to turn in work as the number of days for which you have **excused** absences. Many activities and experiences cannot be repeated for an individual who misses class. Poor attendance will affect your grade.

Grading Policy:

Grades reflect the percentage of points earned of the total points possible. The sum of points earned on notebooks, writing assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, activities and participation divided by the number of cumulative total points will determine your overall grade. Keep all papers pertaining to your grade. It is **your responsibility** to prove any discrepancies with your grade. **No late work will be accepted.** Grades will be earned by the following percentages:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 0-59% =F

Materials:

- *Colored pencils
- *Highlighter
- *Lined paper
- *Blue and/or black pens and #2 pencils.
- *A ruler

