



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Course Overview**  
**Advanced Placement Psychology**



***General Information***

Prerequisite: None  
Length: Full Year  
Format: meets daily for one period

***Course Description***

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to psychology. It is a course taught on a college level with the opportunity for students to earn college credit by successfully taking the AP Psychology Exam. This course exposes students to the systematic and scientific study of the behaviors and mental processes of humans and animals. Students will learn about psychological facts and principles associated with the sub-fields of Psychology. The AP Psychology course work requires rigorous in-class and out-of-class reading assignments. This class consists of a variety of activities to facilitate learning, including discussions, activities, projects, experiments, surveys, and even literary critiques. This class is highly interactive and requires students to be involved, inquisitive, motivated, and willing to prepare independently.

***Course Objectives:***

1. Students will develop an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in an introductory college psychology course.
2. Students will be able to define key terms and concepts in psychology and be able to relate them everyday situations
3. Students will be able to view human behavior from each of the major psychological perspectives.
4. Students will be able to understand the strengths and limitations of each major psychological perspective and know the major theorists and studies that support them.
5. Students will hone the ability to work both independently and collectively to develop critical thinking skills.
6. Students will be prepared to take the AP Psychology Examination

***Common Assessments:***

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Psychology-Related Periodical Literature Review Assignment  
AP Psychology Practice Free Response Question Assignment

Common Midterm Examination  
Common Final Examination

### ***Major Units of Study:***

*Units of study are organized in a manner that adheres to the standards and requirements established by College Board for the Advanced Placement Exam for Psychology.*

Unit One and Two: History, Approaches and Methods  
Unit Three: Biological Bases of Behavior  
Unit Four: Sensation and Perception  
Unit Five: States of Consciousness  
Unit Six: Learning  
Unit Seven: Memory and Cognition  
Unit Eight: Motivation, Emotion, Stress and Health  
Unit Nine: Development  
Unit Eleven: Intelligence, Testing and Measurement  
Unit Ten: Personality  
Unit Twelve and Thirteen: Abnormal Psychology and Therapy  
Unit Fourteen: Social Psychology

### ***Materials & Texts***

#### Common Texts and Resources:

Myers, David G. **Psychology for AP**. Worth Publishers, New York, New York 2010

#### Supplemental Texts and Resources:

**Forty Studies that Changed Psychology** 6<sup>th</sup> edition. (selections)  
Roger R. Hock- Editor. Prentice Hall, Saddle River, NJ 2002

**Myers for the AP Online Student Resource Center**

[http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersAP1e/default.asp#t\\_612492](http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersAP1e/default.asp#t_612492)

#### Recommended Optional Resources:

**AP Psychology**. Robert McEntarffer and Allyson J. Wesely. Barron's.