



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Course Overview**  
**Psychology**  
**0252**



### ***General Information***

Credits: 1  
Weighted: No  
Prerequisite: N/A

Length: Full Year  
Format: Meets Daily  
Grade: 11, 12

### ***Course Description***

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. The topics covered include development, biological basis for behavior, sensation and perception, cognition (learning, memory and intelligence), states of consciousness, personality, abnormal behavior, therapy, and emotion and motivation (sports psychology). Students also learn about the methods employed by psychologists studying behavior. Experiments, surveys, opinion papers, simulations, and creative illustrations are examples of techniques to be used to facilitate learning.

### ***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.

### ***Common Assessments:***

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Psychology-Related Periodical Literature Review 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: Introduction to Psychology and Research 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 Ten: Personality

Unit Eleven: Intelligence, Testing and Measurement

Unit Twelve and Thirteen: Abnormal Psychology and Therapy

Unit Fourteen: Social Psychology

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

#### Common Texts and Resources:

Plotnik, Rod. Introduction to Psychology, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wadsworth Thomson Learning, Belmont, CA.

#### 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