

* **Subject Area:** Elective

* **Category:** History / Social Science

* **Grade Level
for which this
course has been
designed:**

9 10 11 12

* **Unit Value:** 0.5 (half year or semester equiv.)

* **Is this course classified as a Career Technical Education:** No

* **Brief Course Description**

This introductory course in psychology is a survey of the multiple aspects of human behavior. It involves a survey of the theoretical foundations of human functioning in such areas as learning, motivation, emotions, personality, deviance and pathology, psychological factors and social influences. It directs the student to an insightful understanding of the complexities of human relationships in personal, social and vocational settings.

Pre-Requisites

Grade of C or higher in prior social studies - Recommended

Co-Requisites

**Context for Course
(optional)**

**History of Course Development
(optional)**

Textbooks

TEXTBOOK 1

* **Title:** Understanding Psychology

* **Edition:** 1998

*
Publication Date: 1998

*
Publisher: Glencoe

*
Author(s): unknown

URL Resource:

* **Usage:** Primary Text

Read in entirety or near entirety

TEXTBOOK 2

* **Title:** Essentials of Psychology

* **Edition:** 6th

*
Publication Date: 2000

*
Publisher: Harcourt Brace

TEXTBOOK 2

*** Author(s):** unknown

**URL
Resource:**

*** Usage:** Primary Text

Read in entirety or near entirety

Supplemental Instructional Materials

- Worth Discovering Psychology; 2/e ©2001
- Worth Psychology; 6/e ©2001

*** Course Purpose**

This course will provide a foundation in the basic theories, principles, and methodologies of psychology. It will teach critical thinking and practical skills with which students will be better prepared to understand their behavior and the behavior of others.

Upon completion of this course students will:

- *Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, core empirical findings, and historic trends in psychology.
- *Explain and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology.
- *Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing selected content areas of psychological theory and research.
- *Describe applied areas of psychology.
- *Draw connections between research findings and theory.
- *Recognize and understand the impact of diversity on psychological research, theory and application.
- *Develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes.

* Course Outline

The following topics are covered by chapters in the text and will be reinforced through a variety of methods, including student research, oral demonstrations, and student review, synthesis and analysis. Text assignments will include regular response to section, chapter and unit review covering each of the following topics:

- Introduction and Research Methods including an explanation of the science of psychology, describing its history, identifying the methods for examining behavior and mental processes, and reviewing scientific careers available in the discipline.
- Biological Bases of Behavior, addressing how the brain processes information and how the body adapts to the demands of its environment.
- Sensation and Perception, examining how the brain makes meaning out of the physical sensations generated by the environment.
- Motivation and Emotion, analyzing the drives and needs that direct behavior, including sex, thirst, hunger, and social needs, as well as the range of human emotions.
- * Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behavior Psychology, exploring how we perceive the social world and how we behave in relation to other people.
- Stress, Coping, and Health, exploring how stress reactions hinder our effectiveness and proposes alternatives that lead to a healthier existence.
- Learning, demonstrating how we make changes in our behavior through experience with the environment, usually focusing on classical conditioning, instrumental conditioning, and cognitive learning.
- Memory, addressing how we remember as well as how we can improve memory.
- Thinking and Language, examining the role of language, problem-solving skills, creativity, multilingualism, and intelligence testing as primary interests of researchers in this area.
- States of Consciousness, exploring varying stages of awareness, including sleep, reactions to drugs, daydreaming, and controlled conscious processes.
- Lifespan Development, examining how nature and nurture influence our development from conception until death.
- Individual Differences, focusing on how psychologists measure and compare individuals abilities and characteristics. This unit emphasizes test construction, text selection appropriate to the context, and objective and fair-minded interpretation.
- Personality and Assessment, demonstrating scientific explanations of personality development along with the methods psychologists use to measure

personality concepts.

- Psychological Disorders, investigating patterns of behavior that are considered deviant or distressful in our culture and includes how psychologists diagnose these patterns.
- Treatment of Psychological Disorders, discussing the various intervention methods, including psychotherapy and medical interventions, that mental health practitioners use in treating abnormal conditions.
- Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behavior, exploring how we perceive the social world and how we behave in relation to other people. This unit also explores how social and cultural contexts influence behavior.

* Writing Assignments

Regular reflective reading of the text, and response to short answer and essay questions in each chapter and unit will be required. Assignments outside the text will include one or more 500 word essays, using internet and original document research on a variety of topics which might include, but will not be limited to: how stress reactions hinder our effectiveness and what alternatives lead to a healthier existence, how sensation and perception examines how the brain makes meaning out of the physical sensations generated by the environment, how motivation and emotion direct behavior, including sex, thirst, hunger, and social needs, as well as the range of human emotions.

* Key Assignments

Key assignments will include but not be limited to regular reflective reading of the text and response to short answer and essay questions in each chapter and unit. Quizzes will be given on each chapter and comprehensive tests will be given after units, midterm and at the end of the course. Research of contemporary discoveries in the field of psychology, reading of reliable periodicals covering the study of psychological issues, web-based research, and testing of hypothesis will be included on an on-going basis. Essay questions are covered in the section entitled Written Assignments.

* Instructional Methods and/or Strategies

Student will use the text as a primary resource, as well as selected literature and other primary sources. Lecture, group projects, individual and group research, oral and written presentation will be used to reinforce learning. Students will

summarize each unit and answer questions about each unit, and respond to critical thinking challenges. Students will write well-developed essays that indicate mastery of topics/concepts and to demonstrate college preparatory writing ability. Student will meet weekly with Personalized Learning Teacher/Highly Qualified Teacher to discuss material covered in the course, review work and to take tests, which include comprehensive midterm/final

* Assessment Methods and/or Tools

- Attendance at Resource Center Class twice weekly OR weekly review of work by Personalized Learning Teacher/Highly Qualified Teacher
- Written assignments evaluated by provided writing rubrics
- Oral presentations
- Discussions: classroom participation and small group work. If not enrolled in Resource Center class then weekly discussions with Personalized Learning Teacher/Highly Qualified Teacher.
- Weekly homework assignments
- Chapter/Unit tests
- Comprehensive midterm/final

Assessment tools may also include the following:

- Participation in weekly lab activity with graded lab manual (science courses)
- Student demonstrations
- Student work samples
- Research Projects
- Projects: Power Point Presentation, brochures, community service, etc.

Exams, homework assignments, discussions, oral presentations, and writing assignments are used to assess student progress. Exams for each unit consist of short essay format or extensive essay. Essays emphasize critical thinking skills and demonstrate analysis and synthesis of ideas. All work is corrected by the course instructor and/or Personalized Learning Teacher/Highly Qualified Teacher. Feedback is provided on all written work with student revision and rewrite completed when appropriate.

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