**Michael Sinco**

**Room H122**

[**sincom@fultonschools.org**](mailto:sincom@fultonschools.org)

**Advanced Placement Psychology 2017-2018**

**Course Description**

The AP Psychology course is designed 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. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. (*from AP Psychology, Course Description, Fall 2010*)

**Course Outline\***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit | Start Date | Test Date | Unit Name | Modules |
| 1 & 2 | 8/7 | 8/17 | Psychology’s History of Psychology and Approaches, Research Methods | 1-8 |
| 3 | 8/22 | 9/7 | Biological Bases of Behavior | 9-15 |
| 4 |  |  | Sensation and Perception | 16-21 |
| 5 |  |  | States of Consciousness | 22-25 |
| 6 |  |  | Learning | 26-30 |
| 7 |  |  | Cognition | 31-36 |
| 8 |  |  | Motivation, Emotion, and Stress | 37-44 |
|  | TBD | TBD | Review, Final Exams |  |
| Second Semester |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | 1/8 | 1/23 | Developmental Psychology | 45-54 |
| 10 |  |  | Personality | 55-59 |
| 11 |  |  | Testing and Individual Differences | 60-64 |
| 12 |  |  | Abnormal Behavior | 65-69 |
| 13 |  |  | Treatment of Abnormal Behavior | 70-73 |
| 14 |  |  | Social Psychology | 74-80 |
| AP Practice Test |  | TBD |  |  |
| Review |  |  |  |  |
| AP EXAM | MAY 7 |  |  |  |

\*Dates are approximate and subject to change.

**Text:**

Psychology, David Myers, 8th edition, Worth Publishing.

Students are financially responsible for all books issued by CHS. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms and teachers are not responsible for the whereabouts of your book. The copy which was issued must be turned in at the end of the course. You will not receive credit for turning in another student’s book and may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement will be assessed to any student that fails to turn in the book they were issued or turns in a damaged book.

It is recommended that you purchase an AP Psychology review book. They are available at any bookstore or online. This is not required, but will help to supplement the text. Any of the review books are acceptable, browse through them to see which style best fits your learning style.

**Major differences between AP and other classes**

1. This is a college level course and as such, each student has the opportunity to earn college credit by earning

a score of a three or better on the National Advanced Placement Exam offered in May.

2. Because students are potentially earning college credit for their work, A.P. Psychology is designed to be

taught on the college level and many students find the pace and work load difficult.

3. Each test will cover a significantly greater body of information than students may be used to.

4. Homework will consist primarily of reading assignments and reviews of daily notes in order to master

the large body of factual information.

5. There will be very few “simple” assignments where the student can improve his or her grade merely by

completing the work. Furthermore, there will be very little extra credit offered.

6. There are relatively few graded assignments each semester, which increases the need for adequate

preparation every day.

7. Responsibility for mastering the material rests primarily with the student.

**Weighted Grades**

|  |
| --- |
| Major Assessments (Tests/Projects) 55% |
| Minor Assessments (Quizzes/Classwork) 15%  Other (notecards/review sheets) 10% |
| Comprehensive Final 20% |
|  |

**Late Work and Make-Up Policies**

It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher about any work missed while out with an excused absence. If you are in school but not in my class on any given day, it is the student's responsibility to hand in any work due that day and pick up any homework assignments for the next day.

The following policy will apply to all make-up work:

Tests: Tests will be made up on the day that a student returns from an absence. If the student is absent for several consecutive days, the student must make arrangements to make it up in the mornings, during lunch, or possibly after school. If you are absent the day before a test, you will still be required to take the test that day. I reserve the right to change the format of make-up tests to all essays.

Homework: missed homework is due the day after the student returns if assigned prior to the absence.  For homework assigned during an absence, the student has the number of days absent to make it up.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be made up the day a student returns.

|  |
| --- |
| **Grading Scale**  90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C Below 70 F |

**Expectations for Written Work Across the Curriculum**

All written assignments should:

• be in complete sentences using formal language

• follow conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics

• accurately cite sources used with discipline-specific requirements (APA).

**Chattahoochee High School Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Students who complete a major assessment but fail to demonstrate mastery as evidenced by a grade below 75% on the major assessment may pursue an improvement opportunity to show proficiency. In the case of an honor code violation on a major assessment, the grade will stand as a zero with no eligibility for recovery on that assignment. What is classified as a major assessment is determined within the content area; consult your course syllabus for details.

1. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities within 5 school days of being informed of the grade on the assessment in class.  Students are allowed one attempt at recovery per major assessment. All recovery work must be completed 10 days before the end of the semester.

1. The grade on the recovery assignment will replace the original grade if the recovery grade is equal to or below 75%.  If the recovery grade is above 75%, the original grade will be replaced with a 75%.

**School Board Policy IHA Grading and Reporting System**

Provision for Improving Grades

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities.  Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.
2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their

grades.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

The Social Studies department considers academic integrity a top priority. ANY copying or sharing of answers on homework, major assessments, minor assessments, or exams will be viewed as cheating by the Social Studies Department. The only exception to this rule is if the teacher has explicitly stated that the work is a “cooperative learning” experience. If in doubt, ask the teacher.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language is “the act of stealing and using the work ideas or writings of another as one’s own.” Although the direct copying of another’s work is the most blatant example, any time a student takes another’s ideas and passes them off as their own, it is considered plagiarism. This includes “rephrasing” material without noting the source. If in doubt, ask in advance. The consequences for cheating or plagiarism on any assignment are outlined in the handbook: it will result in a zero grade on the assignment, an Honor Code Referral, and a phone call notifying the violator’s parent.

**Extra Credit**

No grades will be given for nonacademic assignments and no extra credit will be assigned.

**Electronic Privacy Policy**

No use of electronic devices to record or transmit class activities, resources, or information is permitted. This means that you may not use a tape recorder, camera, camera phone, camera pen or any other device to record or take pictures of students, teachers, classroom materials or resources, notes, etc. Doing so is a serious violation of the honor code and of the privacy rights of individuals and will be treated as such. Students will be allowed to use smart phones and tablets at various times though out the year; otherwise these devices should be stored in their book bag or under their desk.

**Tardy Policy**

In all Chattahoochee classrooms, instruction occurs from bell to bell. Attendance for the entire period is vital to students’ success. If a student is not in class before the tardy bell rings, he or she will be marked tardy. Tardies will be tracked throughout the semester and progressive discipline will be applied.

A class cut occurs when a student is absent from class for more than ten minutes without having permission from their assigned teacher or authorization from the front office to do so.

**AP Psychology Exam May 7, 12pm**

The format will consist of 100 multiple choice questions (70 minutes) and 2 free response questions (50 minutes).

.