

## AP PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS

**Prerequisites:** None

**Class:** Sundays 1:30-4:30pm in room 5-233 at MIT, unless otherwise noted on the syllabus.

**Office Hours:** Sundays 4:30-5pm in room 5-233 at MIT

**Instructors:** Caroline Rubin and Molly Jabas. You can reach both of us by sending an email to [S472-teachers@delve.mit.edu](mailto:S472-teachers@delve.mit.edu).

\*\* There is also a class e-mail list that we will be compiling. Please send Caroline or Molly an email by the second week of class so we can add you to the list. (We will also be sending around a sign-up in class, but send us an email in case we can't read your handwriting.)

**Course Description:** (courtesy of College Board)

“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.”

**Behavior Expectations:** The success of this class depends on the active participation of all students. There will be discussion in class every week, so you should do the reading assignments for that week **BEFORE** you come to class. Needless to say, if you do not attend class, it is impossible for you to contribute to it (or get anything out of it.)

We realize that 3 hours is a long time to sit and pay attention each week. There will be a 15 minute break halfway through each week. You may also bring food and drink, as long as it is not disruptive and you clean up after yourselves. If you abuse this, we will no longer let you bring food to class.

**NO CELL PHONES.** If you must bring them to class, you need to put them on silent or turn them off. You may use your cell phone during the break only. If we see cell phones out during class we will confiscate them until the end of the day. We're not kidding.

**Absences:** It is important to come to class. We will be taking attendance at the beginning of each class as per Delve policy. If you need to miss a week for some reason (family emergency, illness, etc.), please email us ahead of time if at all possible.

**Assignments:** Although you are not going to be graded, we have added some assignments to the class. These assignments are intended to give you a chance to review and reinforce the material learned in class, as well as to give you experience with things you would be expected to do in college.

## Delve AP Psychology 2007-2008

With each chapter assigned in the textbooks, we will give you **reading questions**. Although we will not be collecting or grading these, we will be asking those same questions the next class for discussion and we expect you to be able to answer them.

We will also ask you to **present two scientific papers** during the year (the first in late November/early December and the second in late March/early April.) For each of these, we will have a research day in class where you can choose an original scientific paper on an area of interest to you to present to the class. You will be required to read the article and understand it so that you are able to talk about the research and summarize highlights clearly for the class. You are expected to create a poster to display the background, design, results and conclusions of your article. The presentations will be approximately 5-10 minutes. This project will be explained in detail in class and a sample poster will be available.

Finally, we will have **a midterm and a final exam**. Again, this is for your benefit. You're not receiving a grade for this class, but we would like to give you some experience testing before the AP exam in May. The midterm will be multiple-choice and short answer and cover the material learned in the first half of the course. The "final" will be a full-length practice exam and will cover the whole year's worth of material. We will also have some review days at the end of the year before the AP Exam.

**Textbook:** We will be using *Psychology* by David Meyers, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. for this class. It is essential that you do the reading before you come to class. We will be taking a "field trip" on the first day of class to pick up and distribute textbooks. In order to be able to pick up your textbook, you will need to have your tuition check, medical form, and waiver form with you or already turned in at registration. We cannot give you a textbook until you turn in all three. No exceptions. When you turn in your textbook at the end of the year we will return your check.

**The AP Exam:** (courtesy of College Board)

"The AP Psychology Exam includes a 70-minute multiple-choice section that accounts for two-thirds of the exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section made up of two questions that accounts for one third of the exam grade.

Students often ask whether they should guess on the multiple-choice questions. Hap-hazard or random guessing is unlikely to improve scores because one-fourth of the number of questions answered incorrectly will be subtracted from the number of questions answered correctly. However, students who have some knowledge of a question and can eliminate one or more answer choices will usually find it advantageous to guess from among the remaining choices.

Free-response questions are an appropriate tool for evaluating a student's mastery of scientific research principles and ability to make connections among constructs from different psychological domains (e.g. development, personality, learning). Students may be asked to analyze a general problem in psychology (e.g. depression, adaptation) using concepts from different theoretical frameworks or subdomains in the field, or to design, analyze, or critique a research study."

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The AP Psychology exam this year will be held on Tuesday, May 13 in the afternoon.

**Class Schedule:**

Date	Class Title	Reading Assigned
September 16	Introduction to AP Psychology, Ethics, and Basic Statistics	
September 23	Methods, Approaches and History of Psychology	Prologue & Ch. 1
September 30	Biological Bases of Behavior	Ch. 2
October 7	NO CLASS – Columbus Day Weekend	
October 14	Biological Bases of Behavior (cont.)	Ch. 2
October 21	Sensation	Ch.5
October 28	Perception	Ch. 6
November 4	States of Consciousness	Ch. 7
November 11	Project I Research Day	
November 18	Mid-Term Review	Review notes
November 25	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving	
December 2	Mid-Term EXAM	
December 9	Project I Presentations	
December 16	NO CLASS – MIT Finals Week	
December 23	NO CLASS – Winter Vacation	
December 30	NO CLASS – Winter Vacation	
January 6	Learning	Ch. 8
January 13	Cognition: Memory	Ch. 9
January 20	Cognition: Thinking and Language	Ch.10
January 27	Motivation	Ch. 12
February 3	Emotion	Ch.13
February 10	Developmental Psychology	Ch.3
February 17	Developmental Psychology (cont.)	Ch. 4
February 24	Personality Theory	Ch. 15
March 2	Testing and Individual Differences	Ch. 11
March 9	Abnormal Psychology	Ch. 14
March 16	Abnormal Psychology (cont.)	Ch. 16
March 23	Project II Research Day	
March 30	NO CLASS – MIT Spring Break	
April 6	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Ch. 17
April 13	Project II Presentations	
April 20	Social Psychology	Ch.18
April 27	Review for Final Exam (AP Practice Exam)	
May 4	Final Exam	
May 11	Review Game/Party/Goodbye	
Tues. May 13	AP Exam Day (afternoon)	

