

AP Psychology - DCFSP4064

AP Psychology is a college-level course providing students with an overview of the development of human behaviors and thoughts. Along with preparation for the AP Psychology exam, the goals of this course are to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences. Psychology is a diverse social and biological science with multiple perspectives and interpretations. The primary emphasis of this course is to help students develop an understanding of concepts rather than memorize terms and technical details; the ultimate goal is to prepare students to successfully take the AP Psychology examination.

Materials: AP edition Psychology by Ciccarelli and White (e-text)

Lesson Order	Lesson Name	Objectives
1	Psychology Defined	Define psychology; Compare and contrast behavior and mental processes
2	History of Psychology	Recognize how philosophical perspectives shaped the development of psychological thought; Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior; Identify the major historical figures in psychology; Discuss psychology's abiding interest in how heredity, environment, and evolution work together to shape behavior; Predict how traits and behavior can be selected for their adaptive value; Distinguish the different domains of psychology careers
3	Descriptive Research Methods	Differentiate types of research with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses; Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn
4	Correlations	Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics; Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics
5	Experiments: Do I Need A Microscope?	Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs; Distinguish between random assignment of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys; Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research
6	Experimental Hazards	Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design
7	Ethics	Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices; Describe how ethical and legal guidelines protect research participants and promote sound ethical practices
8	Neuron	Understand the basic structure of a neuron; Understand the functions of each structure of the neuron
9	Neurotransmission and Neurotransmitters	Explain how neural impulses are generated; Describe how nerve cells communicate; Discuss the impact of neurotransmitters and drugs on human behavior
10	The Nervous System	Identify the major divisions of the nervous system; Describe the nervous systems' functions, noting the three types of neurons that transmit information through the systems; Contrast the simplicity of the neural pathways involved in reflexes with the complexity of neural networks

11	Studying the Brain: A Glimpse into the Unknown	Identify and describe several techniques for studying the brain
12	The Lower and Hindbrain	Describe the functions of the brainstem, thalamus, cerebellum, and limbic system
13	The Cerebral Cortex	Describe the functions of the cerebral cortex; Identify the four lobes of the cerebral cortex and describe the sensory and motor functions of the cortex; Identify the four lobes of the cerebral cortex and describe the sensory and motor functions of the cortex; Discuss the capacity of the brain to reorganize following injury or illness; Describe the research on the split brain, and discuss what it reveals regarding normal brain functioning
14	The Endocrine System	Describe the nature and functions of the endocrine system and its interaction with the nervous system
15	Sensation: Do You Feel It?	Discuss basic principles of sensory transduction, including absolute threshold, difference threshold, signal detection, and sensory adaptation; Identify the major historical figures in the study of sensation and perception
16	Vision and Hearing	Describe sensory processes of vision and hearing including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses; Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior; Explain common sensory disorders
17	Other Senses: I Got a Feeling!	Describe sensory processes of taste, smell, vestibular sensation, kinesthesia and pain including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses
18	Perception: Do You See What I See?	Describe general principles of organizing and integrating sensation to promote stable awareness of the external world (e.g., Gestalt principles, depth perception); Discuss how experience and culture can influence perceptual processes (e.g., perceptual set, context effects); Explain the role of top-down processing in producing vulnerability to illusion; Discuss the role of attention in behavior
19	Consciousness, Sleep, and Dream: Day Dream Believer	Describe the cyclical nature and possible functions of sleep; Identify the major sleep disorders; Discuss the content and possible functions of dreams
20	Altered States of Consciousness: You are feeling sleepy...	Discuss hypnosis, noting the behavior of hypnotized people and claims regarding its uses; Discuss the controversy over whether hypnosis is an altered state of consciousness
21	Psychoactive Drugs: Taking a Virtual Trip	Discuss the nature of drug dependence and identify some common misconceptions about addiction; Describe the physiological and psychological effects of depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens
22	Human Development and Prenatal: In the Beginning...	Discuss the course of prenatal development and the destructive impact of teratogens; Describe the capacities of the newborn and the use of habituation for assessing infant cognition
23	Infancy and Childhood-Cognition: The Expanding Mind	Discuss the impact of physical maturation on infant's memory capabilities and motor skills; Describe Piaget's view of how the mind develops and discuss his stage theory of cognitive development, noting current thinking regarding cognitive stages
24	Infancy and	Discuss the effect of body contact, familiarity, and responsive parenting

	Childhood - Social: Are You My friend?	on infant social attachments; Describe the benefits of a secure attachment and the impact of parental neglect and separation as well as day care on childhood development
25	Sex and Gender: Mars and Venus	Describe how biology and learning influence gender role development
26	Adolescence: Who Am I?	Define adolescence, and identify the major physical changes that occur during this period of life; Describe adolescents' growing reasoning power and discuss specific ways in which moral behavior is affected by moral reasoning, emotional intuitions, and social influences; Discuss the search for identity and the development of intimate social relationships during the adolescent years; Distinguish the difference between the three parenting styles
27	Adulthood: When Are You Over The Hill?	Identify the major physical changes that occur in middle and older adulthood; Describe the impact of aging on adult memory and intelligence; Explain why the path of adult development need not be tightly linked to one's chronological age; Discuss the importance of family and work commitments in adult development; Describe people's life satisfaction across the life span and their reactions to death or the prospect of dying
28	Learning: How Do I Know What I Know?	Discuss the importance of learning and the process of learning associations; Define the components of classical conditioning
29	Classical Conditioning: Pavlov and his Buddy, Watson!	Describe the general process of classical conditioning as demonstrated by Pavlov's experiments; Explain the processes of acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, and discrimination; Discuss the importance of cognitive processes and biological predispositions in classical conditioning; Explain the importance of Pavlov's work, and describe how it might apply to an understanding of classical conditioning
30	Operant Conditioning: The Mystery of the Skinner Box	Describe the process of operant conditioning, including the procedure of shaping, as demonstrated by Skinner's experiments; Identify the different types of reinforcers and describe the major schedules of partial reinforcement; Discuss the effects of punishment on behavior; Discuss the importance of cognitive processes and biological predispositions in operant conditioning; Explain why Skinner's ideas were controversial and describe some major applications of operant conditioning
31	Schedules of Reinforcement: Training Pavlov's Dog	Identify the different types of reinforcers, and describe the major schedules of partial reinforcement; Explain why Skinner's ideas were controversial, and describe some major applications of operant conditioning
32	Cognitive Learning: Training the Mind	Discuss the importance of cognitive learning; Describe the cognitive learning studies conducted by Tolman, Kohler, and Seligman
33	Observational Learning: Children See, Children Do	Describe the process of observational learning as demonstrated by Bandura's experiments, and discuss the impact of modeling
34	Segment 1 Exam	
35	Memory and Models of Memory: Accessing the Data Bank	Compare and contrast the different models of memory; Explain the steps of memory
36	Information Processing and	Describe memory in terms of an information processing model; Explain how sensory memory works and distinguish iconic memory from echoic

	Sensory Memory: What was it I just saw?	memory
37	Short-Term and Long-Term Memory: Unforgettable...	Distinguish between short-term memory and long-term memory
38	Retrieval: Getting It Out of Storage	Contrast recall, recognition, and relearning measures of memory; Describe the importance of retrieval cues and the impact of environmental contexts and internal emotional states on retrieval
39	Forgetting: I Can't Find My Keys	Explain why the capacity to forget can be beneficial and discuss the role of encoding failure and storage decay in the process of forgetting; Explain what is meant by retrieval failure and discuss the effects of interference on retrieval; Identify the different brain structures associated with memory
40	Thinking: As the Gears Turn in our Head	Describe the nature of concepts and the role of prototypes in concept formation; Discuss how we use trial and error, algorithms, heuristics, and insight to solve problems; Describe how confirmation bias and fixation can interfere with effective problem solving; Explain how the representativeness and availability heuristics influence our judgments; Describe the effects that overconfidence can have on our judgments and decisions
41	Intelligence: How Smart are We!	Trace the origins of intelligence testing and describe Stern's formula for the intelligence quotient; Describe the nature of intelligence and discuss whether it should be considered a general mental ability or many specific abilities; Identify the factors associated with creativity and describe the relationship between creativity and intelligence; Describe efforts to correlate intelligence with brain anatomy, brain functioning, and cognitive processing speed
42	Testing: Construction Zone!	Distinguish between aptitude and achievement tests, and describe modern tests of mental abilities such as the WAIS; Describe test standardization, and explain the importance of appropriate standardization samples for effectively interpreting intelligence test scores; Distinguish between the reliability and validity of intelligence tests, and explain how reliability and validity are assessed
43	Language: What did you say?	Describe the structure of language in terms of sounds, meanings, and grammar; Trace the course of language acquisition from the babbling stage through the two-word stage; Explain how the nature-nurture debate is illustrated in theories of language development; Discuss Whorf's linguistic relativity hypothesis and the relationship between thought and language
44	Motivation: Different Strokes for Different Folks!	Define motivation and identify several theories of motivated behavior; Describe Maslow's hierarchy of motives; Describe the adaptive nature of social attachments, and identify both healthy and unhealthy consequences of our need to belong
45	Hunger, Motivation and Eating Behaviors: Hungry, Again?	Describe the physiological determinants of hunger; Discuss the psychological and cultural influences on hunger, and describe the symptoms of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa; Describe how researchers have attempted to assess common sexual practices; Describe the human sexual response cycle, and discuss the impact of both hormones and psychological factors on sexual motivation and behavior; Identify factors contributing to increased rates of pregnancy and sexually

		transmitted disease among today's adolescents; Describe research findings on the nature and dynamics of sexual orientation, and discuss the place of values in sex research; Describe the adaptive nature of social attachments, and identify both healthy and unhealthy consequences of our need to belong
46	Emotion: Feelings...Nothing More Than Feelings	Describe how emotions can be differentiated along the dimensions of valence and arousal level; Describe the physiological changes that occur during emotional arousal, and discuss the relationship between arousal and performance; Describe the relationship between physiological states and specific emotions, and discuss the effectiveness of the polygraph in detecting lies; Describe some nonverbal indicators of emotion, and discuss the extent to which people from different cultures display and interpret facial expression of emotion in a similar manner; Describe the effects of facial expressions on emotional experience; Discuss the significance of environmental and biological factors in the acquisition of fear; Discuss the catharsis hypothesis, and identify some of the advantages and disadvantages of openly expressing anger; Identify some potential causes and consequences of happiness, and describe how happiness is influenced by our prior experiences and by others' attainments
47	Theories of Emotion: Why I Feel the Way I Do?	Identify the three components of emotions, and contrast the James-Lange and Cannon-Bard theories; Describe Schachter's two factor theory of emotion, and discuss evidence suggesting that some emotional reactions involve no conscious thought; Describe how emotions can be differentiated along the dimensions of valence and arousal level; Describe the physiological changes that occur during emotional arousal, and discuss the relationship between arousal and performance; Describe the relationship between physiological states and specific emotions, and discuss the effectiveness of the polygraph in detecting lies; Describe some nonverbal indicators of emotion, and discuss the extent to which people from different cultures display and interpret facial expression of emotion in a similar manner; Describe the effects of facial expressions on emotional experience; Discuss the significance of environmental and biological factors in the acquisition of fear; Identify some potential causes and consequences of happiness, and describe how happiness is influenced by our prior experiences and by others' attainments
48	I/O Psychology: Psychology in the Workforce	Discuss the importance of various motives for working, and identify the aims of industrial-organizational psychology; Describe how personnel psychologists seek to facilitate employee selection, work placement, and performance appraisal; Define achievement motivation, and discuss the impact of employee satisfaction and engagement on organizational success; Describe how effective managers seek to build on their employees' strengths, set specific goals, and utilize an appropriate leadership style
49	Personality: Who Am I?	Define personality; Identify the various psychological perspectives on personality
50	Psychodynamic: The Man and the Couch	Explain how Freud's experiences in private practice led to his theory of psychoanalysis; Discuss Freud's view of the mind as an iceberg, and explain how he used this image to represent conscious and unconscious regions of the mind; Describe Freud's view of personality structure, and discuss the interactions of the id, ego, and superego; Identify Freud's

		psychosexual stages of development, and describe the effects of fixation on behavior; Describe the function of defense mechanisms, and identify seven of them; Contrast the views of the neo-Freudians and psychodynamic theorists with Freud's original theory; Summarize psychology's current assessment of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis
51	Behaviorist and Social Cognitive Views: Do we have a pattern here?	Discuss the effects of a perception of internal or external control and describe the concept of learned helplessness; Explain why social-cognitive researchers assess behavior in realistic situations; State the major criticism of the social-cognitive perspective
52	Humanistic View: May the Third Force be with You and only You!	Summarize Abraham Maslow's concept of self-actualization and explain how his ideas illustrate the humanistic perspective; Discuss Carl Rogers' person-centered perspective and explain the importance of unconditional positive regard; State the major criticisms of the humanistic perspective on personality
53	Trait Theory: Enduring?	Describe some of the ways psychologists have attempted to compile a list of basic personality traits; Explain how psychologists use personality inventories to assess traits and discuss the most widely used personality inventory; Identify the Big Five personality factors and discuss some of the strengths of this approach to studying personality; Summarize the person-situation controversy and explain its importance as a commentary on the trait perspective
54	Behavioral Genetics: Is it Really in our Genes?	Explain how biology and heredity influence personality
55	Personality Assessments: What's the Method?	Describe two projective tests used to assess personality, and discuss some criticisms of them; Explain how humanistic psychologists assessed personality; Explain how psychologists use personality inventories to assess traits, and discuss the most widely used personality inventory
56	What is Abnormality?	Identify the criteria for judging whether a behavior is psychologically disordered; Describe the medical model of psychological disorders, and discuss the bio-psycho-social perspective offered by critics of this model; Describe the aims of DSM-IV, and discuss the potential dangers associated with the use of diagnostic labels
57	Anxiety, Somatoform, and Dissociative Disorders	Describe the symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder, phobias, and obsessive-compulsive disorder; Explain the development of anxiety disorders from learning and biological perspectives; Describe the characteristics and possible causes of dissociative identity disorder
58	Mood Disorders	Describe major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder; Explain the development of mood disorders, paying special attention to the biological and social-cognitive perspectives
59	Schizophrenia	Describe the symptoms and types of schizophrenia and discuss research on its causes
60	Personality Disorders	Describe the prevalence of various personality disorders and timing of their onset; Describe the nature of personality disorders, focusing on the characteristics of the antisocial personality disorder
61	Therapy and Evaluation	Explain the rationale of preventative mental health programs; Understand the history of therapy
62	Psychoanalysis and Humanistic Therapy	Discuss the aims and methods of psychoanalysis, and explain the critics' concerns with this form of therapy, noting how psychodynamic therapists have tried to answer the criticisms; Identify the basic characteristics of

		humanistic therapies as well as the specific goals and techniques of client-centered therapy
63	Behavioral, Cognitive, and Group Therapy	Identify the basic assumptions of behavioral therapy, and discuss the classical conditioning techniques of systematic desensitization and aversive conditioning; Describe the therapeutic applications of operant conditioning principles, and explain the critics' concerns with this behavior modification process; Describe the assumptions and goals of the cognitive therapies and their application to the treatment of depression; Discuss the rationale and benefits of group therapy, including family therapy
64	Biomedical Approaches	Describe the commonalities among the psychotherapies, and discuss the role of values and cultural differences in the therapeutic process; Identify the common forms of drug therapy; Describe the use of electroconvulsive therapy and psychosurgery in the treatment of psychological disorders
65	G.A.S.	Identify the major concerns of health psychology; Describe the biology of the "fight-or-flight" response to stress and the physiological characteristics and phases of the general adaptation syndrome; Discuss the health consequences of catastrophes, significant life changes, and daily hassles; Discuss the role of stress in causing coronary heart disease, and contrast Type A and Type B personalities; Describe how stress increases the risk of disease by inhibiting the activity of the body's immune system; Describe the impact of learning on immune system functioning; Identify and discuss different strategies for coping with stress
66	Social Influence: Such a Copycat!	Discuss the results of experiments on conformity, and distinguish between normative and informational social influence; Describe Milgram's controversial experiment on obedience, and discuss the implications for understanding our susceptibility to social influence
67	Attitudes and Attribution: It's all about your disposition!	Describe the importance of attribution in social behavior and the dangers of the fundamental attribution error; Identify the conditions under which attitudes have a strong impact on actions
68	Social Interaction: Just get along!	Describe the social, emotional, and cognitive factors that contribute to the persistence of cultural, ethnic, and gender prejudice and discrimination
69	Attraction: I think I love you!	Describe the influence of proximity, physical attractiveness, and similarity on interpersonal attraction; Explain the impact of physical arousal on passionate love, and discuss how companionate love is nurtured by equity and self-disclosure
70	Aggression and Prosocial Behavior: Helping hands!	Describe the impact of biological factors, aversive events, and learning experiences on aggressive behavior; Describe and explain the bystander effect, and explain altruistic behavior in terms of social exchange theory and social norms
71	Review for the AP Exam	
72	Segment 2 Exam	