

Course Overview

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Year**
Length: **180**
Status: **Published**

Course Overview
Aligned to Standards: College Board
Revision Date: 2024
In compliance with the NJ Student Learning Standards, climate change, career readiness, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), as well as other standards have been integrated within the NBCRSD curricula (NJ Administrative Code Title 6A: chapter 8; Title 18A: chapter 35).
Course Overview
Sequence- Unit Titles, Summaries, and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/36 year)
<p>Unit 0: Historical Foundations/ Science Practices (2.5 weeks)</p> <p>Unit 1: Biological Bases for Behavior (4 weeks)</p> <p><i>Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. All psychological phenomena studied throughout AP Psychology have a biological basis. Unit 1 focuses on how the functions of our biological systems influence our physical and mental actions and responses. Knowledge of biological functions and mechanisms, especially how neurons communicate, how the brain functions, and how sleep and sensation impact behavior and mental processes, will help students gain a more comprehensive understanding of psychology throughout the course as well as awareness of how all behaviors and mental processes are based in biological operations Bases of Behavior</i></p> <p>Unit 2: Cognition Psychology (4 weeks)</p> <p><i>Cognition plays a major role in the field of psychology. Building on the knowledge of anatomical structures and biological processes students learned in Unit 1, this unit introduces them to the memory processes and contains content that is relevant to their daily lives, such as how people remember and perceive the world around them. In Unit 2, students learn about the basic elements of thought, judgment, and problem-solving, as well as research based strategies for memory improvement that can be directly applicable to their lives outside of the classroom. Students also delve into the measurement of intelligence and achievement, including how these assessments have been used both to identify students with aptitude to increase opportunities in school and the workplace, but also to limit access to jobs, military ranks, and educational institutions. The focus on perception in this unit, coupled with sensation from Unit 1, helps connect biological bases of behavior with cognitive psychology—ideas about how expectations and biases filter sensations to produce perception relate to theories about memory construction, forgetting, and judgment. Unit 2 content will remain important as students move on to discussions of cognitive development in children and adults in Unit 3, where they will encounter a reappearance of concepts, such as schema and memory failure.</i></p>

Unit 3: Development and Learning (4 weeks)

Development and learning are about growth and change. The domains of development and learning encountered in Unit 3 give students opportunities to understand how biological, cognitive, and environmental factors—studied in Units 1 and 2—come together to influence growth throughout the lifespan. While the most noticeable and dramatic growth and development stage occurs from birth to roughly 18 years of age, people continue to grow and develop throughout their lives. Though some aspects of an individual person, such as personality or eye color, remain relatively stable throughout life, other aspects, such as memory retention or sensory acuity, can fluctuate with age. People experience formal and informal learning throughout a significant portion of their lives. Classical conditioning and operant conditioning are two fundamental forms of learning that have been studied extensively for over 100 years. The advent of computers in the mid-20th century brought about new theories and methods for examining learning, and today, artificial intelligence models continue to unlock ways we can better understand how people learn.

Unit 4: Social Psychology and Personality (4 weeks)

Social psychology is the study of how other people and groups influence behavior and mental processes, as well as how behavior and mental processes influence an individual's experiences in social situations. This unit explores how external social factors and internal personality variables come into play in a wide variety of everyday situations for people. Psychologists throughout history have proposed different theories that categorize different personalities and explain their connection to behavior and mental processes. Various perspectives in psychology have shaped these theories and how psychologists study personality. Some psychologists study what motivates us and/or our emotional responses to understand our individual differences; other psychologists seek to understand why different personalities exist, how they are developed, and if and how they change. As they explore the content of this unit, students will gain understanding about themselves, their peers, their families, and others whom they may meet in day-to-day life and begin to provide insight into factors that may contribute to mental and physical health issues that they will examine in Unit 5.

Unit 5: Mental and Clinical Health (4 weeks)

While people's overall health and well-being is a deep interest of all psychologists, there are more specific areas within these categories on which certain psychologists place their main research focus. Health psychologists explore factors that help people lead mentally and physically healthy lives. Positive psychologists explore factors related to mental health and happiness, focusing on positive emotions, cognitions, and experiences. Psychologists who study and/or treat psychological disorders utilize theoretical perspectives to explain a disorder's origin and/or determine the best method for its treatment. These explanations and treatments build on the theories, perspectives, concepts, and processes studied throughout the course. Connecting content and perspectives presented in this unit and those presented in the previous four units can help students realize why psychologists use integrated approaches and evidence-based practices to understand and treat psychological disorders. Overall, this final unit presents an opportunity for students to see real-world application of course content to people's authentic experiences of psychological health, illness, and wellness.

[Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to NB's Assessment System)

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments.
Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans.