# AP Psychology Syllabus

**Course Description**

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.”

This is a fascinating class that will give you the opportunity to understand why humans think, feel, and behave as we do. It is, however, also a rigorous course, as is the case with all college-level AP courses. As a result, you will be required to complete reading and writing assignments outside of class and take notes in class on lectures and discussions. Failure to complete reading assignments and poor note-taking will have a negative impact on your ability to be successful in the course. This AP course is demanding and you can expect exams in traditional AP format, quizzes, in-class essays, research papers, projects, and presentations. You are required to maintain a section in your 3-ring binder for notes, assignments, and returned exams. These will serve as invaluable review resources in the weeks leading up to the national AP Psychology Exam!

**The AP Exam**

Speaking of the exam - the national AP Psychology Exam is on **Monday, May 2, 2016**. Every student enrolled in AP Psychology at BHS is expected to take the exam. The exam is two hours long and consists of 100 multiple choice questions and two free response essay questions. There is a fee of approximately $90 to take the exam (financial assistance is available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch). Students who pass the exam can earn college credit. Exam registration and due dates for the fees will be announced in the spring.

**Course Objectives**

- You will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology.
- You will be able to define key terms and use them in your everyday vocabulary.
- You will learn the basic skills of psychological research and be able to apply psychological concepts to your own life.
- You will develop critical thinking skills.
- You will prepare to pass the national AP Psychology Exam.

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**Contact Information:**

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360-473-0872  
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angela.justice@bremertonschools.org  
CLASS WEBSITE:  
www.bremertonschools.org/Page/4219  
COMMUNICATION: (TEXT, EMAIL & APP)  
www.remind.com  
text group code @bhsappsych to 81010  
send an email to bhsappsych@mail.remind.com  
or download the free app

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**Class Supplies:**

**Required:**
- Designated section in a 3-ring binder
- Writing utensil(s)
- Notebook paper
- Index cards – OR – composition book (for vocab)

**Optional:**
- Post-it notes (for text notation)
- Highlighter(s)

**Note:** All students at BHS are required to maintain a 3-ring binder for all academic coursework. This binder, as well as tabbed dividers, will be provided once a year by the school. Regular, scheduled binder checks will take place in all classes. Ms. Justice will provide a list of items that should be in the AP Psychology section of the binder in advance of each binder check. These binder checks are formative assessments in AP Psychology, but will impact your overall grade in Knight Skills.
Course Content

AP Psychology course content reflects the content of college Introductory Psychology courses. The AP Psychology Exam reflects these distributions through multiple-choice questions and free response essay questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Psychology Unit</th>
<th>% of AP Exam</th>
<th>Unit Test Date (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 History and Approaches</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
<td>September 15, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Research and Methods</td>
<td>6-8%</td>
<td>September 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
<td>8-10%</td>
<td>October 16, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>October 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 5 States of Consciousness</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
<td>November 16, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 6 Learning</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 7 Cognition</td>
<td>8-10%</td>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 8 Motivation and Emotion</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>January 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9 Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>January 28, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 10 Personality</td>
<td>6-8%</td>
<td>February 16, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 11 Testing and Individual Differences</td>
<td>5-7%</td>
<td>February 26, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 12 Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>March 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 13 Treatment of Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>5-7%</td>
<td>March 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 14 Social Psychology</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
<td>April 22, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Textbook:

You will each check out a copy of the course text through the BHS Library. If the book is lost or severely damaged the approximate replacement cost is $150.

These textbooks are **REALATIVELY NEW** (purchased just 1 year ago!), so please treat them as you would a newborn child – gently and with great care! A book cover is an awesome idea. DO NOT write in these textbooks! If you are interested in writing/highlighting in your textbook you may use post-it notes or purchase a book of your own (see Ms. Justice for details on how to do that).

Supplementary Reading Assignments: Periodically you will be given supplementary reading assignments, such as news articles, research reports, patient’s stories, etc. It is expected that you read these in their entirety and place them in your binder.

Textbook Companion Website: http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers9e/

Class Website: Videos, links, handouts, and relevant course documents will be posted on this site

http://www.bremertonschools.org/Page/4219
Assignments and Grading

In AP Psychology you will complete a variety of assignments that will help you learn the content and prepare for reading quizzes, unit tests, and projects. These assignments will include: textbook reading assignments, supplementary reading assignments, in-class notes, graphic organizers, class discussions, group activities, vocabulary flash cards, and other in-class activities. You should expect to have 1 hour of homework for each hour spent in class. If there is no assigned homework, you should review your notes and T&C, study for an upcoming quiz or test, etc.

All grades in AP Psychology will be entered into Skyward Family Access (EA+).

Student grades can be accessed at any time through Skyward Family Access (EA+) online. If you have any questions about grades, please contact Ms. Justice. Student log-in information can be obtained in the BHS Library. Parent sign-up for Skyward Family Access (EA+) can be facilitated through the Bremerton High School office (360-473-0800).

AP Psychology adheres to the Bremerton School District Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Policy. All grades will be determined based on evidence from assessments that measure achievement on course, state, and national standards.

Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

Unit Tests [40%]
At the end of each unit there will be an exam that includes AP-style multiple choice questions and free-response essay questions. Test scores can be improved with test corrections (due 1 week after receiving the corrected exam). Test re-takes are available within 6 days of receiving the graded test only after having a conference with Ms. Justice and completing corrections (following the assigned format).

Projects [25%]
Throughout the course research projects and presentations will provide you the opportunity to examine psychological concepts and research methods in-depth, and to make meaningful connections between these concepts and real world experiences.

Quizzes [15%]
On the day that a chapter reading is due, there will be a multiple choice reading quiz. Quiz scores can be improved with quiz corrections (due on the current unit test day). Quiz re-takes are available within 3 days of receiving the graded quiz only after having a conference with Ms. Justice and completing corrections (following the assigned format).

Summative Assignments, Classwork & Homework [10%]
Assignments given in class, or as homework, that assess your learning of psychological concepts and ideas could include graphic organizers, group activities, worksheets, practice free-response questions, study guides, etc.

Skills for Success [10%]
Skills necessary for success in high school and beyond, such as arriving on time with required supplies, being self-directed, using class time appropriately, giving your best effort, etc.

**In accordance with district policy, NO extra credit will be given.**

Bremerton High School Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards-Based Grading Description</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds Standards</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets Standards</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaching Standards</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does Not Meet Standards</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Dishonesty

Any assignment on which a student cheated or plagiarized will not receive a score. The student will be subject to the disciplinary consequences detailed in the BHS Student Handbook and will be provided with an alternate opportunity to demonstrate understanding on the assignment. The alternate assignment must be completed within the time frame specified by the teacher.
Absences

Attendance:
Attendance is crucial to your success in this class. A majority of this class is based on lecture, discussion, and in-class activities. All assignments will be posted daily on the class website. If you do not have internet access at home, use the computers in the BHS Library, check with a classmate, or ask Ms. Justice to see what you missed. It is your responsibility to find out what you need to make up after an absence!

Course Expectations and Guidelines

**AP Psychology** is a rigorous academic class and it is, therefore, expected that an academic environment will be maintained from bell to bell. Your contribution to an academic environment will be to:

- Be present in class every day, and arrive on time. Arriving after the bell will result in a tardy.
- Follow the “Knight Way” and act with Respect, Responsibility, and Safety toward peers and adults at all times.
- Bring all materials, as required, and be prepared for class with all homework and assignments.
- Work to your best potential every day, ask questions, and actively participate in class activities and discussions.
- Practice academic honesty, which includes both honestly answering questions in class and on assignments, and only signing one’s own name to one’s own work. Students found copying, cheating, or plagiarizing will be subject to the consequences detailed in the BHS Student Handbook.
- Follow all policies and procedures in the BHS Student Handbook including the Electronics Policy, which states:

> Electronics may NOT be used in classroom/lab areas during scheduled instructional time unless teacher directed [as a] planned part of lesson or learning activity. It is recommended that students leave all of their electronic devices at home.

Any non-educational, non-teacher-directed use of electronics will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Bremerton High School discipline code. This means that the electronic device may be confiscated by the teacher and sent to the school office and/or a discipline referral may be written.

**Remember, AP students are serious students, and serious students are not on their phones during class :-(**
Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Statement:

• I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the AP Psychology Syllabus.

• I understand that AP Psychology is a rigorous, college-level course and I will be expected to challenge myself academically and complete many assignments, as well as homework and studying, on my own time outside of class.

• I understand that I am expected to follow all BHS policies while in AP Psychology class, including the attendance, tardy, academic honesty, and electronics policies.

• I understand that I am expected to come to class each day with the required supplies, materials, and resources.

• I understand that the majority of my grade in AP Psychology will be made up of test and quiz scores, in order to be prepared for the national AP Exam in May 2016.

• I understand that I have the ability to improve my scores on quizzes and tests by completing corrections. I can re-take quizzes and tests only after completing corrections and having a conference with Ms. Justice.

• I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain missed assignments and schedule quiz and test make-ups due to absences, both excused and unexcused.

• I understand that I can (and should) access my grade in AP Psychology through the Skyward Family Access (EA +) website, and that Ms. Justice’s BHS AP Psychology website can be used as a supplementary resource for the class.

Name ___________________________________________ Signature ____________________________________________
Date ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Syllabus Acknowledgement Statement:

• I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the AP Psychology Syllabus.

• I understand that AP Psychology is a rigorous, college-level course and my student will be expected to challenge him/herself academically and complete many assignments, as well as homework and studying, on his/her own time outside of class.

• I understand that my student is expected to follow all BHS policies while in AP Psychology class, including the attendance, tardy, academic honesty, and electronics policies.

• I understand that my student is expected to come to class each day with the required supplies, materials, and resources.

• I understand that the majority of my student’s grade in AP Psychology will be made up of test and quiz scores, in order to be prepared for the national AP Exam in May 2016.

• I understand that my student has the ability to improve scores on quizzes and tests by completing corrections. He/she can re-take quizzes and tests only after completing corrections and having a conference with Ms. Justice.

• I understand that it is my student’s responsibility to obtain missed assignments and schedule quiz and test make-ups due to absences, both excused and unexcused.

• I understand that my student and I can access my student’s grade in AP Psychology through the Skyward Family Access (EA+) website, and that Ms. Justice’s BHS AP Psychology website can be used as a supplementary resource for the class.

Name ___________________________________________ Signature ____________________________________________
Date ____________________________________________