



## AP Psychology Grand Haven High School



**Course Number:** C78  
**Grade Level:** 10-12  
**Credits :** 1  
**Prerequisite Courses :** None

**Course Description:** The most important concept to understand is that this course is a **college-level course**. It is designed to replace Introduction to Psychology in a student's freshman year of college. Students who chose this course should do so with the understanding that only self-motivated, dedicated, serious students will be successful. Unlike an AP course in literature, which deals mainly with skills the students must master to discuss an unknown piece of literature (difficult for other reasons), this class deals with content, content, content. In order to master that content, students must be self-directed and intrinsically motivated to succeed. **While it will vary for some students, you can expect to spend an average of 8-10 hours outside of class per week preparing for this class.**

### Course Objectives:

In addition to the course objectives listed below by the APA, the main objective in teaching this course is to prepare students to score at least a 3 on the AP Exam offered by the College Board in May.

As listed in the *APA High School Program: Statement on the Curriculum for the High School Psychology Course*, the course objectives are listed below.

1. Students should [read *will* for should] study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They should be able to define key terms and to use these terms in their everyday vocabulary. Students should be able to compare and contrast major theories in psychology. **It is impossible to cover all the material in class, therefore it is imperative that you keep up with your reading and assignments in order to be prepared for each test.**
2. Students should learn the basic skills of psychological research. They should be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the general validity of research reports.

### Building Behavioral Expectations

***TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.***

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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3. Students should be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They should be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.
4. Students should develop critical thinking skills. They should become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.
5. Students should build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.
6. Students should learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists. They should maintain high ethical standards and sensitivity in applying the principles of psychology to themselves, other peoples, and other organisms.

### **Student Expectations:**

- Read and outline each chapter of the text
- Keep a library of note cards covering the vocabulary
- Take notes in class
- Do outside readings
- Conduct simple experiments and analyze the data
- Write essays, create projects, utilize the internet
- Participate in class discussions and group work
- Take practice tests, write rubrics, score essays, and learn strategies for test-taking
- Attend class—choose class over senate, student government activities, or other in-school fun stuff (just say no to missing class)

### **Communication:**

- Please be sure to monitor your grade using Synergy Gradebook as it will be updated after each assignment or assessment.
- Use the class website for additional resources and information
- Google Classroom - posting of online assignments that can be completed within the platform.
- Email and/or call the teacher

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## Grading Policy

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Assignments/Notes/Homework - 20%
- Quizzes - 20%
- Tests and major projects - 60%.

The school wide grading scale can be found in the school handbook.

## Scope and Sequence

1st Semester includes the following:

- Unit 0 - Intro to Psychological Science Practices
- Unit 2B - Memory
- Unit 1A - The Brain & Neuroscience
- Unit 1B - Consciousness & Sleep
- Unit 1C - Sensation
- Unit 2A - Perception, Thinking, & Problem Solving
- Unit 2C - Intelligence & Achievement
- Unit 3B - Learning

2nd Semester includes the following:

- Unit 3B - Learning (continued)
- Unit 3A - Cognitive Development
- Unit 4A - Social Psychology
- Unit 4B - Personality
- Unit 5C - Motivation & Emotion
- Unit 5A - Stress, Health, & Positive Psych
- Unit 5B - Disorders
- Unit 5C - Treatment

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