

AP Psychology Outline Syllabus

Week 1: History, Approaches, and Research Methods

- A. History—trace the development of the science of Psychology
- B. Approaches: Biological, Behavioral, Cognitive, Humanistic, Psychoanalytical
- C. Type(s) of Psychologists
- D. Research Methods:
 - a. Sources of biases
 - b. Experimental
 - c. Correlational
 - d. Clinical
 - e. Observational
- E. Statistics
 - a. Central tendency
 - b. Variance
 - c. Significance
 - d. Correlation
- F. Ethics in Research

Week 2: Biological Basis of Behavior (5days)

- I. Genetics
- II. Neuroanatomy
 - A. Structure and Function
 - i. Neuron and synaptic transmission
 - ii. Research methodology
 - iii. Brain development and Split Brain
 - B. Organization of the Nervous System
 - 1. Central Nervous System
 - 2. Peripheral nervous system
 - 3. Autonomic nervous system
- III. Endocrine System
 - A. Structure and Function
 - B. Hormones and Behavior

Week 3: Sensation and Perception (4days)

- I. Thresholds (Weber's Law, absolute and different)
- II. Sensory organs and transduction

- A. Vision (Structure and Function, Light, Theories of Color Vision, Colorblindness, and Feature detection)
- B. Hearing (Auditory) Structure and Function, sound, deafness.
- C. Vestibular and Touch Senses
- D. Sense of Taste
- E. Sense of smell
- III. Perception
 - A. Attention
 - B. Perceptual organization
 - C. Depth perception
 - D. Processing
 - E. Illusions (Gestalt)
 - F. Camouflage
 - G. Pattern and movement perception
 - H. Perceptual learning

Week 4: Altered States of Consciousness (3days)

I. Consciousness

II. Sleep and dreaming

- A. Stages and function
- B. Theories
- C. Disorders

III. Hypnosis and Mediation

- A. behavior of hypnotized people
- B. claims regarding the use of hypnosis
- C. uses and effectiveness of mediation
- IV. Drugs
 - A. Chemicals:
 1. Effects of depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogenic drugs
 2. nature of drug dependence
 - B. Disorders

Week 5: Learning (6days)

- I. Classical Conditioning
 - A. Biological Factors
 - B. Pavlov's experiments

1. Updating Pavlov's understanding
2. Pavlov's legacy
- C. John Watson's experiment with Baby Albert
- II. Operant Conditioning
 - A. Thorndike
 - B. Skinner
 1. updating Skinner's understanding
 2. Skinner's legacy (application of Operant Conditioning)
- III. Observational Learning (Social Learning)
 - A. Bandura's experiments
 - B. Application of observational learning
- IV. Cognitive processes in learning

Week 6: Cognition (6 days)

- I. Introduction to Cognition
 - A. Memory/ information processing
 1. defining memory
 2. encoding
 3. storage
 4. retrieval
 - B. Forgetting
 - C. Memory construction
 - D. Improving memory
- II. Thinking and Language

A. Thinking

1. Concepts

2. problem solving
3. Making decisions
4. Forming judgments

B Language

1. language development

2. thinking and language

3. animal thinking and language

Week 7: Motivation, Emotion and Stress (5 days)

I. Motivation and Emotions

A. Motivational concepts

1. Instincts
2. drives
3. optimal arousal
4. Maslow's hierarchy
5. Hunger and Eating Disorders
6. sexuality and sexual orientation
7. achievement motivation

B. Emotions

1. Physiology of emotions
2. Expression of emotions
 - a. Darwin
 - b. Ekman
3. Theories of emotions
 - a. James-Lange
 - b. Cannon-Bard
 - c. Schacter-Singer

II. Stress and Health

A. Concept of stress

B. Stress and health

Week 8: Developmental Psychology (7 days) Toy project due on 3rd day of this unit.

I. Methods of studying development

A. longitudinal

B. cross-sectional

II. Heredity/Environmental Issues

A. Nature vs. nurture

B. Maturation vs. Learning

III. Theories

A. Piaget (cognitive development)

B. Kohlberg (moral development)

C. Freud (psychosocial development)

D. Gilligan (gender differences)

IV: Dimensions of development

A. Physical

B. Cognitive

- C. Social
- D. Moral
- E. Language

Week 9: Testing and Intelligence (2 days)

- I. Standardization of norms
- II. Reliability and validity
- III. Types of tests
- IV. Ethics and standards in testing
- V. Intelligence
- VI. Heredity/Environment and Intelligence

Week 10: Personality

- I. Personality theories and approaches
 - A. Psychodynamic: Freud, Jung and Adler
 - B. Trait perspective: Allport
 - 1. Factor analysis
 - 2. Five factor model assessment (Myers-Briggs, MMPI)
 - C. Humanistic Perspective: Maslow and Rogers
 - D. Social-Cognitive Perspective: Bandura and Seligman

Week 11: Abnormal Psychology: (5 days)

- I. Definitions of abnormal
- II. Theories of Psychopathology
- III. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
 - A. Medical model of psychological disorders
 - B. DSM-IV
- IV. Anxiety Disorders
 - A. Generalized Anxiety Disorders (GAD)
 - B. Phobias
 - C. Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
 - D. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- V. Somatoform Disorders
- VI. Mood Disorder(s)
- VII. Schizophrenic Disorders
- VIII. Organic Disorders
- IX. Personality Disorders
- X. Dissociative Disorders

Week 12: Social Psychology (5days)

I. Group Dynamics

II. Attitudes and Behavior

A. fundamental attribution error

B. interpersonal perception

C. conformity, compliance and obedience

D. attitude changes

E. organization behavior

III. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior