EA4030- AP Psychology Course Information Sheet

**Instructors: Carson Rietveld, Kimmie Marks, Paul McHenry**

**Textbook: *Psychology*, David Myers**

**Prerequisites: None**

##### Length: 1 Year

**Credits: 10 Units**

**UC/CSU: Yes**

# What Students Can Expect From This Course

**Course Description:**

The course will introduce you to the workings of the brain and human/animal behavior. The course is intended to challenge students to critically analyze psychological information, documents, case studies, and perspectives to identify their own positions that can be supported with evidence. The course will also serve to rigorously promote reading, research, writing, verbal and written evidentiary argument, and critical thinking skills to not only provide the challenge of an AP course, but also to build skills that will be vital to student success at the university level.

The students will also prepare for the AP exam; however it is not mandatory that every student take the AP exam.

**Assessment and Grading:**

Semester letter grades will be determined from formal assessments of a student’s ability to demonstrate success in achieving the course standards. Those standards, and the weight of each in the calculating of the final semester grade, are as follows:

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| **1st Semester Grades Weighted As Follows:**  Preparation - 10%  Content Mastery -75%  Unit 1: Research Methods (15%)  Unit 2: Development (13%)  Unit 3: The Brain, Sensation and Perception (21%)  Unit 4: Learning (13%)  Unit 5: Cognition (13%)  Final Exam - 15% | **2nd Semester Grades Weighted As Follows:**  Preparation -10%  Content Mastery - 60%  Unit 6: Intelligence (11%)  Unit 7: Emotion and Motivation (11%)  Unit 8: Personality (11 %)  Unit 9: Social Psychology (12%)  Unit 10: Abnormal Psychology and Treatment (15%)  Final Exam - 15%  Final Project - 15% |

**Late Work:**

Completing work on time is highly recommended, as it allows students to reinforce content knowledge and practice skills in class, and for the teacher to provide better feedback. The result is increased learning and higher grades. Even when students do not complete work on time, however, they are still expected to complete and turn in that work. Late work will not receive any “Preparation” credit.

**Revision and Reassessment:**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of revision opportunities. Students may revise written assignments, and reassess content knowledge in order to show greater mastery. Revision time frame varies depending on the assignment. To ensure timely grading all revisions and retakes must be completed by the Friday prior to the end of the quarter in which it was assigned (Quarter 1: 10/6; Quarter 2: 12/8; Quarter 3: 3/9; Quarter 4: 5/25) . **For all test and quiz retakes, the retake will be the student's’ final score - even if the score is lower than the students original score**. Before retaking any assessment, students must have completed an additional independent study item. No retake will be available for the final exams.

**Group Work**:

Students may do work with a team in a group work assignment, but they will only be graded for the part of the assignment in which they are able to demonstrate individual work.

**Final:**

All students will complete a final assessment at the end of the semester and at the end of year before the AP exam. This final is cumulative and is based on work from the whole year. Students should therefore keep all their papers and throw nothing away.

**Grade book Update Policy:**

The gradebook is updated about every two weeks. Essays and projects may take longer to appear in the grade book.

**Digital Device Policy:**

Devices can only be used in class at the teacher’s discretion and should use them in line with the [MVLA Digital Device](https://docs.google.com/a/mvla.net/document/d/1LhfiDIFvaWpLfa-aiqppdFKboEBRffU8PQ-nIHmIPyk/edit?usp=sharing) and Behavior Policies. If distraction becomes an issue, the teachers will manage the situation as they would with any other distraction and in line with the relevant policies.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

Honesty, trust and integrity are vital components of the education process.  The Governing Board believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.  There are three categories for violations of academic integrity based on the severity of the offense (Categories A, B, and C). Examples of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism (taking or passing off another’s ideas as one’s own, including using Internet sources without documentation), copying from another’s exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests, and using unauthorized notes/materials.  Check with your teachers if you are unsure of their expectations.

A student’s education and integrity are extraordinarily valuable. Thus, students are expected to do their own work. If a student is concerned that they may not be able to complete their own work, they should consult their teacher for assistance. Student or parents/guardians who are unclear about what constitutes cheating should consult the instructor and the district Academic Integrity policy posted on the instructor’s website. District policy regarding cheating will be followed at all times.

**Help:**

See me 1st period or make an appointment to meet with me. Feel free, however, to alert me at anytime if you need help. If we cannot find a solution right then, we will find a time later on to try and work on one. Additionally, both students and parents will find the teacher’s email address and home page that includes: daily agendas, homework, hand-outs, assignments and periodic announcements on [www.mvla.net](http://www.mvla.net) under Mountain View High School’s Staff Directory. The Tutorial Center and Library also have tutors and resources to assist students.

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## What Is Expected From the Student

**Daily Assignments:**

Students who have chosen this Advanced Placement Psychology elective need to be aware that a very heavy reading and note-taking load is necessary and required. Thus, students are expected to complete four assignments of homework reading and writing every week. Additionally, some assignments and in-class activities will require homework preparation beyond nightly reading and writing expectations. Prior to due dates students may propose alternative assignments to seek instructor approval. Students in this course are expected to be active learners who consistently use and share knowledge with classmates.

**Parent/Guardian Involvement**:

Students in this course will be much more likely to achieve the course objectives with support at home. So too, the instructor can benefit from information and feedback from parents/guardians. Please do not hesitate to phone or write a note regarding questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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It is assumed that all work completed for a class is original work created for that class, for a specific assignment.

**From the MVHS Student Handbook:**

There are three categories for violations of academic integrity based on the severity of the offense (Categories A, B, and C). Examples of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism (taking or passing off another’s ideas as one’s own, including using Internet sources without documentation), copying from another’s exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests, and using unauthorized notes/materials.  Check with your teachers if you are unsure of their expectations. Based on the severity of the Academic Integrity violation, the student’s disciplinary history, and an administrator’s assessment of the student’s conduct, an administrator will refer the student to a process for Restorative Justice or a process for Traditional Discipline. Consequences for all violations will include a “V” notation in the SIS gradebook indicating a violation of academic integrity; a record of the violation in the student’s discipline file; and notification of the student’s family. Additional consequences may include, but are not limited to, Saturday School, in-school detention, social probation from school events (dances, sporting events, performances, etc.) ineligibility for the California Scholarship Federation or any other MVLA academic honors, suspension, ineligibility for work permits, withdrawal from a course, and recommendation for expulsion.

*Typing your name in the space below means you agree to and understand the above course information:*

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##### Student Name Date

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##### Parent/Guardian Name Date