

**PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL**  
**AP PSYCHOLOGY: 2017-2018**  
**MR. DEVILBISS**

Welcome to AP Psychology!

I am looking forward to an exciting and successful school year, and hope that you are too. In order for us to work together most effectively, some guidelines are necessary. By signing up for an Advanced Placement Course you are agreeing to putting forth your best effort at all times whether in classroom activities, homework, assessments, or projects. **It should also be understood that you are working toward the successful completion of the AP Exam on May 1st. Please note that an alternate in-class assessment will be given to students who do not sit for the AP Exam.** The cost of the exam will be approximately \$90 (the fee for next year has yet to be posted.) Patuxent High School offers a discount for students who sign up early. You should plan on making your deposit of \$25.00 in September or October. If you have financial concerns please speak to your instructor or the AP Coordinators ASAP

If you have questions about the summer assignment you can drop by our rooms during lunch (see schedule below) or e-mail us at [devilbissd@calvertnet.k12.md.us](mailto:devilbissd@calvertnet.k12.md.us) Do not procrastinate!

Please note that to be enrolled in the AP Psychology course you should have, at *minimum*, successfully completed an Honors level course in Social Studies and received an 80% or higher. In August, you will receive a complete course syllabus and outline that discusses the academic requirements and classroom expectations for the year.

You should expect to have a nightly homework assignment. You will be given the assignments in advance and will be able to work ahead and prioritize your efforts in order to work around the many commitments you will have next year. Homework assignments will also be posted on **Edmodo** which can be accessed via [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com). You will be given instructions on how to set up your account the first week of school.

**If you decide not to remain in the class you must contact Guidance no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> to change your schedule.**

Attached is a course syllabus/outline excerpt and signature sheet to indicate that you have read the outline, understand and accept the class rules, and are aware of the summer assignment. **Note: you must pick up a book from Guidance if you have not already done so from either instructor before the last day of school.**

Let's make this a great year!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Devilbiss

## Syllabus and Course Outline Excerpt

### Homework Expectations:

Ample notice will be given for any assignment or exam. The amount of work depends on the unit being covered in class. There are assigned pages to read in the textbook nearly every night. Assignments will also be posted on Edmodo which can be accessed via [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com). You should set up your own account the first week of school once your instructor assigns the group code.

A Unit Folder will be assigned for each unit consisting of assigned readings, class, and home work. In addition, vocabulary terms are also given for each unit and will be included in the Unit Folder. Students are responsible for creating flash cards for selected terms and concepts. In order to help make meaning of the terms/concepts, each will be defined **and** must be accompanied by an association word, phrase, or graphic designed to be relevant to the student.

### Assessments:

Quizzes will range from fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or multiple-choice questions. Exams will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of 25-50 multiple-choice questions and/or one free-response question (simulating the AP Exam.) Other assignments given to students are class presentations, group projects, and/or a research project. These assignments vary with the unit being covered. **Students will be able to make test corrects for half points on all selected response exams.**

### Attendance

County guidelines regarding absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. It is **YOUR** responsibility to get any missed warm-ups, notes, and assignments you need to complete. Work must be completed within a one to one ratio of legal days absent. **Students with illegal absences may submit their assignments or take a missed test but they will only receive 50% of the score if requirements and effort of the assignment are met.**

### AP Exam Prep

Approximately four weeks prior to the AP Exam there will be intensive in-class review with after school review sessions; many of which will include extra credit points and help prepare you for the daily quizzes.

### Summer Reading Assignment:

During the summer, students are required to read and outline *Unit One: Psychology's History and Approaches* pages 1-15 in their textbook to become familiar with the historical development of the discipline, its different perspectives, and its various applications and subfields. In addition, students will complete a vocabulary flashcard assignment, and respond to eight BCR questions regarding their reading.

### Required Materials:

- **Three ring binder**
- **14 folders**
- **140 (minimum) 3" x 5" index cards**
- Students should be prepared to come to class everyday with their text book (unless otherwise noted), pen/pencil, and note paper.
- It is highly recommended that students purchase a copy of the latest edition of one of the following review books. *5 Steps to a 5* by Laura Lincoln Maitland with Pam Hannah, *Cliffs AP Psychology* by Lori A. Harris, *Cracking the AP Psychology Exam* by Princeton Review or, *Barron's How to Prepare for the AP Psychology Advanced Placement Examination* by Robert McEntarffer and Allyson Weseley. They range in price from \$10 to \$20 on Amazon.

### Class Rules:

1. Always arrive on time.
2. Be prepared—bring material to class (text book, notebook, writing utensil, etc.)
3. Come to class ready to learn and display your best effort every day.
4. Show respect for your classmates, the teacher, and the objects in the room.
5. Take care of personal needs prior to class.
6. **Do not leave/pack up until the teacher dismisses the class.**

### Textbook:

Myers, David G. *Psychology for AP* (1<sup>st</sup> Ed.) (2010). New York: Worth.

## **KEY SUMMER INFORMATION:**

### **Summer Assignment -DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

- A. Read and outline pages 1-15 in your textbook (or handout)**
- B. Select ten vocabulary words listed on page 16 and create “flashcards” for them. Each flashcard requires two components:**
  - 1. definition of the term or concept**
  - 2. an association word, phrase, symbol, or drawing that will help you remember the term or concept**
- C. Respond to the attached list of 8 BCR questions.**

- First day of school is Tuesday, September 5th
- **Unit One test tentatively scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Have your book covered by the first day of school. Make sure your name is visible on the inside of the text book.

### **TIPS FOR OUTLINING:**

Use a format that works for you. Make sure that you have included all key information but be careful to not include everything from the textbook- that would be copying and not outlining. If you were given an open note quiz you should be able to ace it using your memory of what you have read and your outline.

### **TIPS FOR THE AP PSYCHOLOGY BCRs:**

- Don't worry about including an introduction or a conclusion.
- Do not write your answer in outline form or label any of the parts with letters. Use paragraphs when you move from one point to the next. Include a topic sentence at the beginning of each paragraph to indicate which part of the question you are answering.
- Use complete sentences—an incomplete sentence will not score!
- Write legibly and proof your work!

## AP Psychology Summer Assignment: Brief Constructed Response

1. Tom believes that children are born with neither good nor bad thoughts, desires, or character traits. He suggests, instead, that parents and culture shape individual minds and hearts in virtuous or harmful directions. For John Locke and Charles Darwin, note whether that philosopher would agree or disagree with Tom's claims. In each case, explain why each would agree or disagree with Tom. Also explain why you would agree or disagree with Tom.
2. Julie, a physics major, has difficulty believing that psychology is a science, because people cannot observe other people's thoughts and sensations. Explain how Wilhelm Wundt and John Watson would have responded to Julie's skepticism regarding psychology's scientific status.
3. Briefly describe the limitations of Edward Titchener's method of "introspection" and explain why current psychological researchers would be unlikely to use introspection to gather data.
4. William James developed his theory of functionalism around the same time Charles Darwin was developing the theory of evolution. How did Darwin's theory influence James' theory of functionalism?
5. What was revolutionary about the "cognitive revolution" when compared with earlier theories, such as psychoanalytic theory and behaviorism?
6. Explain how both nature and nurture likely contribute to your personality traits. Identify at least three of your personality traits, and discuss possible contributions of nature and nurture for each trait.
7. Jack is a second-grade student. He seems to have no interest in learning, often daydreaming in class and frequently disrupting the class by throwing objects at other students. Describe how a biopsychosocial approach might provide both an integrated explanation of Jack's classroom behavior and practical suggestions for helping Jack to cope more effectively with the challenges he faces.
8. Kathy does not want to become a psychologist because she has no interest in analyzing emotionally disturbed people. Use your knowledge of psychology's subfields and perspectives to expand Kathy's limited understanding of career opportunities for psychologists.