**Shanghai United International School - Wan Yuan Campus**

**SS 505 AP Psychology Syllabus**

**School Year**: 2016-17

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**Course Description**

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. Satisfactory completion of the requirements of this course and a passing grade on the National AP Exam could earn you college credit in Psychology. This course will be taught as it would be on the college level. An AP course demands extra work and additional time outside the usual high school demands. You will be expected to do a great deal of Independent reading, research, and completion of assignments. 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 course follows the APA guidelines for Advanced Placement Psychology.

**Textbook**

Myers, D. G. (2011). *Myers’ psychology for AP*. New York: Worth Publishers.

**Content Outline**

These are the major content areas covered by the AP Psychology Examination, as well as the approximate percentages of the multiple choice section that are devoted to each area.

History & Approaches (2-4%)

Research Methods (6-8%)

Social Psychology (7-9%)

Developmental Psychology (7-9%)

Personality (6-8%)

Cognition (8-10%)

Learning (7-9%)

Testing & Individual Differences (5-7%)

Biological Bases of Behavior (8-10%)

Sensation & Perception (7-9%)

States of Consciousness (2-4%)

Motivation & Emotion (7-9%)

Abnormal Psychology (7-9%)

Treatment of Psychological Disorders (5-7%)

**The AP Psychology Exam**

The AP Psychology exam includes a 70-minute multiple-choice section that accounts for two-thirds of the student's exam grade and a 50-minute free-response section, made up of two questions, which accounts for one-third of the student's exam grade.

**Course Objectives**

Students will:  
1. study the fundamental concepts and theories of psychology.  
2. learn the basic skills of psychological research.  
3. develop critical thinking, reading, writing, and discussion skills.  
4. analyze ethical issues and enduring psychological questions.  
5. apply psychological principles in their own lives.  
6. prepare to earn a passing score on the AP Psychology Exam.

**Classroom Expectations**

Students must respect all people, including themselves, and all property, including their own, at all times.  
Come to class each day prepared to learn and work hard.   Bring all required materials daily as well as an enthusiastic, positive, curious and focused attitude.   Take responsibility for your behavior, work, and learning.  Collaboration is an important part of class and learning, however all work on tests must be your own and anything turned in must be in your own words.   Seek extra help if you do not understand a concept or procedure.  

**Grading Policy**

Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance on daily work, special assignments, and summative assessments. It will be to your advantage to complete any learning enrichment materials that may be handed out in class. Additionally, there is a positive correlation between those that complete all of their study materials and those who earn the highest grade in the class and on the AP exam.

Your course average will be determined by the following percentages:

Tests/Quizzes/Projects/Papers: 55%  
Class Work/Homework: 15%  
Final Exam: 30%