



AP Psychology Welcome Letter

Instructor- Bryson Betts

Welcome to Advanced Placement Psychology! I am honored that you are challenging yourself by enrolling in this enriching opportunity to better understand how you think, feel, and act.

About myself: I have taught social studies at Western Guilford High since 2003 and been privileged to teach Advanced Placement courses here since 2004. The experiences of being a football coach for almost 10 years, as well as serving in a variety of leadership positions at school, has served to build a depth of “life” experiences that hopefully add to my instruction. Keeping me humble is my wife, Courtney and son, Grayson which provide support and allow me to do what I enjoy doing.

About the course: Psychology, like all social studies courses, is all about developing an understanding of why...why do we **think** the way we do, why do we **feel** the way we do, and why do we **behave** or act the way we do. Everything we cover is immediately relatable and applicable to you. College Board describes the course thus:

AP Psychology is an introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.

About the AP Exam: AP Exams usually occur within the first two weeks of May and offer an opportunity to achieve college credit with a score of “3” or higher. The AP exam for psychology is structured like this:

The AP Psychology Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning targets outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours long and includes 100 multiple-choice questions and 2 free-response questions.

The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

- Multiple-choice questions 100 in 70 minutes (66.7% of score)
- 2 Free-response questions 50 minutes Question 1: Concept Application (7 points)
Question 2: Research Design (7 points) (33.3% of score)

About the expectations of the class: The class activities and assignments are structured to hit on four key abilities:

- Analysis- Assessing and Summarizing
- Evaluation- the pros/cons and worth of something
- Application- seeing the relevance, being able to give examples
- Interpretation- Explaining the significance

These abilities are not unique to this course; effectively developed and used, they will enable you to be successful in any AP course and in any academic endeavor beyond it. You will need to be an effective/efficient reader and writer!

There are two main ways I assess in class: unit tests (which cover 1 to 3 chapters) and quizzes (which typically cover a topic or sections of chapters)

In addition, we use scenarios, in-class investigations, group discussions, and case studies (such as research articles) to develop understanding of psychological concepts and theories.

Unit syllabi provide opportunities to apply concepts outside the classroom as well as help develop writing skills through short answer prompts that are completed over the course of a given unit.

There are three platforms we use to assist in instruction and assessment:

- AP Classroom
- Schoology
- Canvas

Again, I am honored that you are giving me the opportunity to teach you Psychology! If you have any further questions about the course and the opportunities it provides please contact me at bettsb@gcsnc.com . I look forward to seeing you in the coming year!