

AP Psychology Summer Institute
June 24-27, 2024
UTC APSI
Instructor: Garry Shriver
garryshriver@gmail.com

Hello!

I'm an AP Psychology teacher from Memphis, TN, home of Elvis and barbeque! I have taught five AP subjects and two International Baccalaureate subjects, including IB Psychology during my 32 years as a public-school teacher in the Memphis, TN area. AP Psychology is by far my favorite! I have taught AP Psychology for 22 years and served the College Board as a reader and table leader for the AP Psychology exam for 12 years. In addition, I have been a multiple-choice question writer for the AP Psychology exam and a member of the national development committee creating the national Psychology praxis exam for the Educational Testing Service. Most recently, I served on the Free Response rubric development committee for the national AP Psychology exam.

While working for Shelby County Schools I served as a district workshop leader and department chair, Advanced Placement department chair, Psychology curriculum writer, and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship recipient. In addition, I have worked on numerous Superintendents' Advisory committees as well as the Tennessee Governor's Round Table for Education.

After 34 years in public education, I now teach at St. Agnes Academy in Memphis and in my spare time I host the How To Love Lit literature podcast with my wife, an AP English teacher and APSI English Language consultant. And for fun I work in the Memphis area as a professional musician!

This workshop is designed for both new and experienced AP Psychology teachers and will include discussions on current changes in the CED and test construction, essay writing, content planning, resources and organizational themes that hopefully will help strengthen participant's programs. Particular attention will be paid to teaching strategies, multiple choice question construction and free response essay writing that reinforce skills reflected on the AP exam. We will examine projects, activities, materials, and exercises as well as essential vocabulary that promote exam preparedness. This will be an interactive seminar that includes materials supplied by me for various topics but also will draw upon your expertise and successful strategies you have created in the past. Please come prepared to share ideas!

Objectives

Here is what I hope we accomplish during our time together.

1. Participants will have a clear understanding of the AP Psychology content and expectations as described in the College Board Course Description.
2. Participants will exit with new demonstrations, activities, assessments, resources and instructional techniques.
3. Participants will have a thorough understanding of how free response questions are structured and graded by the AP readers.

Textbooks

Please bring the text (or texts) you use (or plan to use) for your AP class. I'm most familiar with the Myers text, but I've used other books as well. Some of our discussions will involve how we can best use our texts to help students, and we'll discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various textbooks.

Day 1: Special Topic Day 1: Getting Started • Introductions • AP Psychology Course and Exam Description • Changes to the CED • Course Scope and Sequence • AP Audit • Group analysis to determine high concern areas and prioritizing needs • General expectations • Recommended textbooks • Dissection of the AP Psychology exam • Overview of how multiple choice items are constructed and scored • Overview of how free response items are constructed and scored • How the exam is graded and how final scores are calculated. • History and Approaches • Schools of thought and perspectives • Activities, assignments and projects • Research Methodology • Discussion of terms, concepts, activities, teaching methods, and student projects. • Ethical considerations • Statistics – descriptive and inferential • Experimental designs • Biological Bases of Behavior • Neuroanatomy • Nervous systems • Brain Imaging Techniques • Brain damage and plasticity • Split Brain Activities • Sensation and Perception • Sensation vs Perception • Top Down vs Bottom Up Processing • Perception projects – Visual Distortion goggles • Perceptual Cues • Gestalt Processes

Day 2: Special Topic Day 2: Changes in the Free Response Question format • States of Consciousness • Circadian Rhythms • Drug Addiction • Learning • Classical vs Operant Conditioning • Positive vs Negative Reinforcement • Reinforcement Schedules • Biological and Cognitive Theories of Learning • Cognition • Memory Models • Demonstrations and Activities • Practical Applications • Intelligence and Testing • Theories of Intelligence • Intelligence Extremes • Testing Reliability and Validity • Culture and Intelligence Testing

Day 3: Special Topic Day 3: Assessment/Grading in the AP Psychology Classroom •
Developmental Psychology • Language Acquisition • Piaget, Erickson, Kohlberg, Ainsworth
Comparisons • Attachment Theory • Personality • Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic Approach •
Defense Mechanisms • Theories of Personality • Motivation and Emotion • Differentiating
Theories of Emotion • Trait Theory • Humanistic Theory • Socio-Cognitive Theory • Abnormal
Psychology • DSM-5 • Etiology, diagnosis and Treatment • Organic abnormalities • Cognitive
Abnormalities

Day 4: Student Projects and Closure • Treatment of Psychological Disorders • Comparing and
Contrasting Treatments • Cognitive Therapies • Medical Therapies • Humanistic Therapies •
Social Psychology • Group Dynamics and Interactions • Cognitive Dissonance • Obedience and
Conformity • AP Psychology Exam • Review Materials • Exam Strategies • Participants Work on
Essay Prompts • Participants Take the Multiple Choice Portion of the Exam • Scoring Discussion
• Lab Session – Web sites and internet resources • Project Discussions