**Course Outline and Syllabus Details**: Major topics by grading periods are as follows:

**First Quarter**:

**Unit One: Scope, History, and Methodology**

1. Philosophy, and the history of psychology
2. Approaches: Biological, Behavioral, Cognitive, Sociocultural, Psychometrics, Developmental, Humanistic
3. Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research
4. Observational (Case Studies, Naturalistic), Survey, Experimental
5. Statistics: Descriptive/Inferential, Mode, Mean, Median, Standard Deviation
6. Ethics in Research: APA ethical standards, Animal experimentation, Value judgments

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is psychology?
* What are the origins of psychology?
* What are the major schools of thought in psychology?
* How have the patterns of thought changed through the decades?
* What are the areas of specialization in psychology?
* What is the scientific method, and how does it relate to psychological research?
* What major research methods are used in psychology?
* What ethical guidelines must psychologists use?

**Unit Two: Neuroscience and the Nature and Nurture of Behavior**

1. Neuron structure/function: Cell body, dendrites, axon, myelin, terminal buttons, neurotransmitters & types
2. Neurotransmission: Stimulus, synapses, threshold, transmission
3. Nervous System: Neural tissue, central, peripheral, spinal cord, somatic, autonomic, sympathetic, parasympathetic
4. Endocrine system and related hormones
5. Nature vs. Nurture: relative impacts on behavior
6. Evolutionary influence on behavior
7. Localization of the brain: neocortex, 4 major lobes, subcortial areas, hemispheres, split brain
8. People: Gage, Wernicke, Broca
9. Imaging: EEG, CAT, MRI, PET

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is a neuron and identify its parts?
* What are the types of neurons found in the nervous system?
* How are neural messages transmitted?
* How is the nervous system organized?
* What are the lobes and localizations of the brain?
* How is the cerebral cortex organized?
* What experimental methods do scientists use to study brain functioning?
* What are the differences between the right and left hemispheres?
* How is the endocrine system organized and how does it function?
* How does heredity interact with the environment to influence behavior?
* How did psychological mechanisms develop according to the evolutionary perspective?

**Unit Three: Developmental Psychology**

1. Life-Span Approach
2. Research Models: longitudinal, cross-sectional
3. Heredity: Environmental
4. Developmental Theories: Piaget, Jung, Erikson, Kohlberg
5. Development Dimensions: Physical, Cognitive, Social, Moral
6. Sex roles, sex differences
7. Social Changes: Adolescence, Adulthood, Death and Dying

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* How does life develop before birth?
* How do the brain and motor skills develop during infancy and childhood?
* What is Piaget’s view of the mind’s development?
* How do the bonds of attachment form, and with what effects later in life?
* What major changes occur during adolescence?
* How do Kohlberg and Erikson describe development?
* What changes occur during middle and late adulthood?

**Second Quarter**:

**Unit Four: Sensation and Perception**

1. Thresholds: Absolute, subliminal, difference
2. Sensory mechanism & adaptation, stimulus input – 5 senses
3. Attention
4. Perception: form, depth, movement, light, vision, color

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is sensation?
* What is the difference between threshold types?
* What is sensory adaptation?
* How is visual information processed in the brain?
* How is auditory information processed?
* How do we sense and feel pain?
* Why do we see the world in three dimensions?
* How do our assumptions and expectations effect perception?

**Unit Five: States of Consciousness**

1. Waking consciousness: Attentions, daydreams
2. Biological rhythms
3. Sleep: circadian rhythm, sleep stages, REM, theories, sleep disorders
4. Hypnosis
5. Drugs and Consciousness: addiction, psychoactive, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What are states of consciousness?
* How are sleep/wake cycles regulated?
* What are the stages of sleep?
* Why do we dream?
* What are sleep disorders?
* What is meditation?
* What is hypnosis?
* What are psychoactive drugs?
* What are depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, and their effects?

**Unit Five part 2: Learning (Behaviorism)**

1. Definition of Learning
2. Classical Conditioning: Pavlov, 5 conditioning processes (acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, discrimination), biological predispositions
3. Operant Conditioning: B.F. Skinner, shaping, reinforcers, punishment, biological predispositions
4. Cognitive processes
5. Observational Learning – Bandura

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is learning?
* What is classical conditioning?
* Why is Pavlov’s work important?
* What is operant conditioning?
* What are different types of reinforcers?
* How does punishment affect behavior?
* What is the difference between punishment and reinforcement?
* What cognitive and biological processes and restraints affect operant conditioning?

**Unit Six: Memory**

1. Forming memories, information processing
2. Encoding: Automatic, effortful, strategies
3. Storage: sensory, short-term, long-term
4. Retrieval: cues, recall

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is cognitive learning?
* How is sensory experience transferred to memory?
* What methods of processing help form memories?
* How are memories recorded in the brain?
* What is short-term memory?
* What is long-term memory?
* How is memory retrieved?

**Third Quarter:**

**Unit Seven: Thinking, Language, and Intelligence**

1. Thinking
   * 1. Concepts, problem solving
     2. Representative heuristics, Availability heuristics
2. Language
   * 1. Development and acquisition (Skinner vs. Chomsky)
     2. Language influencing thinking
3. Intelligence
   * 1. Intelligence testing, Origins: Binet, Terman
     2. Factor analysis, general, emotional, savant syndrome
     3. Assessment: Test construction, standardization, reliability, validity
     4. Creativity
     5. Genetics and Environment: relative influences, diversity, ethics

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What are the functions of concepts?
* What are heuristics?
* How is language acquired and developed?
* When and why were intelligence tests created?
* What is intelligence?
* What types of tests are there?
* What are the principles of test construction and evaluation?
* What factors affect creativity?
* Is intelligence influenced more by genetics or environment?
* How and why do ethnic and gender groups differ in aptitude test performance?
* What is confidentiality?

**Unit Eight: Motivation and Emotion**

1. Motivation:
   * 1. Biological: instincts, drives, arousal
     2. Hunger, thirst, pain
     3. Sex, hormones, disorders
     4. Achievement: social and intrinsic motivation
2. Emotions
   * 1. Expression: nonverbal culture, body language
     2. Theories of emotion: James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, Two-Factor Theory (Schacter-Singer), Physiological, Evolutionary
     3. Experiencing Emotion

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What theoretical perspectives help us understand motivation?
* What is Maslow’s hierarchy of needs?
* What stages mark the human sexual response?
* What role do hormones play in human sexuality?
* What is intrinsic motivation and how can it be nurtured?
* What are the components of emotion?
* How are emotions expressed?

**Unit Nine: Personality, Stress and Health**

1. Personality Theories and Approaches
   * 1. Psychoanalytic: Freud, Jung, Horney
     2. Trait Perspective: Allport
     3. Humanistic: Maslow, Rogers
     4. Social-Cognitive: Bandura, Research Methods affected by modeling
2. Assessment techniques
3. Self-concept, Self-esteem
4. Growth and adjustment
5. Stress and Health
   * 1. Immunity, control

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What is personality?
* What role do unconscious dynamics play in Freud’s theory of personality/
* How do trait theorists view personality?
* What is the central focus of the humanistic perspective?
* What impact has the humanistic perspective had on psychology?
* What are the causes and consequences of person control?
* How do social-cognitive researchers evaluate personality?
* How does self-concept and self-esteem influence personality?
* What is stress?

**Fourth Quarter:**

**Unit Ten: Psychological Disorders/Abnormal Psychology**

1. Definitions of abnormality
2. Psychopathology, theories and diagnosis
3. Anxiety disorders: GAD, OCD, Panic
4. Somatiform Disorders
5. Mood Disorders, depression, bipolar, mania
6. Schizophrenic disorders
7. Organic Disorders
8. Personality disorders, amnesia, fugue, identity

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What criteria are used to judge a person’s behavior as a disorder?
* Why are psychological disorders classified, and what system is used?
* What behaviors categorize anxiety disorders?
* What behaviors categorize mood disorders, and what causes them?
* What behaviors categorize the schizophrenias and what causes the illness?
* What are the characteristics of personality disorders?
* What are dissociative disorders and why are they controversial?

**Unit Ten Part 2: Therapy/Treatment**

1. Treatment Approaches
   * 1. Insight therapies: Psychodynamic, Phenomenological
     2. Humanistic: Rogers
     3. Behavioral
     4. Cognitive
     5. Biological
2. Modes of Therapy: Individual, group
3. Community and Preventive approaches

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* What are the aims and methods of the psychoanalysis?
* What are the basic themes of humanistic therapy?
* What are the assumptions and techniques of behavior therapies?
* What are the goals and techniques of cognitive therapy?
* In what group contexts do people receive therapy?
* What are the most common forms of drug therapy?
* What are preventative mental health programs purposes?

**Unit Eleven: Social Psychology**

1. Group Dynamics
   * 1. Conformity, norms
     2. Culture, gender
2. Attribution process
3. Interpersonal perception
4. Conformity, compliance, obedience
5. Attitudes and attitude change: Cognitive dissonance
6. Organizational Behavior
7. Aggression, antisocial behavior

***Essential questions/major concepts-***

* How do we tend to explain others behavior? How do we explain our own behavior?
* Under what conditions do our attitudes guide our behavior?
* How do cultural norms and gender roles affect our behavior?
* What are the social and emotional roots of prejudice?
* What social processes fuel conflict?
* What psychological factors promote attraction?
* What factors influence helping?
* What characterizes antisocial behavior?

***\*\*\* Intensive review for AP test, scheduled for Tuesday, May 11 (afternoon)***

***\*\*\* There will be a final exam!***