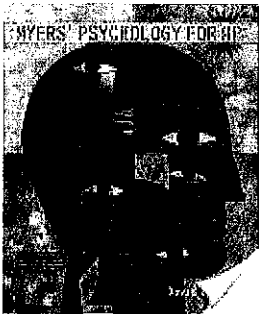


**Welcome to AP Psychology!** I am looking forward to an exciting and successful year. I hope that you will find learning about psychology to be as interesting and enjoyable as I do. This class is designed to be a college level course. It is imperative that you are prepared to dedicate time to reading, completing assignments, and studying.



### **Textbook**

Myers' Psychology for AP (2010)

### **Course Description**

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields with psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. (From the *Advanced Placement Course Description for Psychology*, published by the College Board.)

### **Summer Project**

Your summer project will center on the first chapter of the class. (Research Methods)

- 1) Read the chapter that is provided.
- 2) Complete the packet of related work (I recommend completing it in order)
- 3) If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me [smccomb2@bcps.org](mailto:smccomb2@bcps.org) anytime and I will get back to you ASAP.

This project will be a significant portion of your first quarter grade as this chapter is a significant portion of material covered on the AP exam in May. In addition, this project represents the homework you would have had for the three weeks of school. So that means you will not have homework for the first three weeks by completing this work. This project will be due the first day that we have class. Do not turn this assignment in late. We will begin the class as if you have read this chapter. Thank you for taking this class and I look forward to meeting you all in September!

**Scientific method**

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**Hindsight bias**

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**Critical thinking**

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**Theory**

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**Hypothesis**

---

**Operational definition**

---

**Replication**

---

**Case study**

---

**Survey**

---

**Random sample**

---

**Population**

---

**Naturalistic observation**

---

**Correlation**

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**Correlation coefficient**

---

**Scatterplot**

---

**Correlation vs. causation**

---

**Positive correlation**

---

**Negative correlation**

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**Perfect correlation (+ or -)**

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**Illusory correlation**

---

**Random event misperception**

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**Experiment**

---

**Random assignment**

---

**Double-blind procedure**

---

**Placebo**

---

**Placebo effect**

---

**Experimental group**

---

**Control group**

---

**Variable**

---

**Independent variable**

---

**Dependent variable**

---

**Confounding variable**

---

**Descriptive method**

---

**Correlational method**

---

**Experimental method**

---

**Mean/Median/Mode**

---

**Range**

---

**Standard deviation**

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**Normal (bell) curve**

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**Statistical significance**

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**Ethics (in research)**

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**Informed consent**

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**Debriefing**

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By using N.O., S, E&C groups, and then expressing your findings, you become the Zen research master

List some confounding variables found in the research on source of milk vs. smartness, which had to be 'controlled for':

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the conclusion? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does random assignment minimize bad data? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a good example of a placebo? \_\_\_\_\_. Which group gets it? \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the placebo effect? \_\_\_\_\_

Which group gets the actual treatment? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is the comic on 35 showing a "reverse placebo effect?"

Think about and write out, in excruciating detail, the evidence showing Viagra works:

What is the independent variable in the landlord/apartment experiment?

\_\_\_\_\_ What is the dependent variable? \_\_\_\_\_

Experiments aim to \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

Pg. 37. You have a 10% chance of getting an A on Friday's test on 2-2. Do you believe me? \_\_\_\_\_

Why *shouldn't* you, according to Myers? \_\_\_\_\_

Mean, median and mode are all \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ can be thought of as the average distance away from the average, or else, how much individual scores diverge from the mean score.

How does one maximize the reliability of their inferences and inductive reasoning?

- 1
- 2
- 3

**Please identify the independent and dependent variables in the following descriptions of experiments:**

- 1) Students watched a cartoon either alone or with others and then rated how funny they found the cartoon to be.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

- 2) A comprehension test was given to students after they had studied textbook material either in silence or with the television turned on.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

- 3) Some elementary school teachers were told that a child's parents were college graduates, and other teachers were told that the child's parents had not finished high school; they then rated the child's academic potential.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

- 4) Workers at a company were assigned to one of two conditions: One group completed a stress management training program; another group of workers did not participate in the training. The number of sick days taken by these workers was examined for the two subsequent months.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

- 5) Students at a University were split into two groups and each received a different text for a philosophy course. One group received a traditional text book, while the other received an interactive textbook on a tablet computer. After the course, the final exam marks between the two groups of students was compared.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

6. The more time people spend using social media, the less able they are to express themselves in conversation.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

7. Drinking energy drinks makes people more aggressive.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

8. Taking a nap in the afternoon makes people more relaxed and less irritable for the rest of the day.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

9. Spending time with a cat or dog decreases the amount of stress someone is feeling and allows them to perform better on tests.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

10. Eating breakfast in the morning increases the ability to learn in school.

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

Review the major components of an experiment by using the correct term for each of the following definitions.

WORD BANK

**independent variable    dependent variable    prediction    replication**  
**controlled variables    hypothesis    control group    levels of treatment**

1. Variables that are kept constant during the experiment.
2. Tentative explanation for an observation usually phrased as a statement.
3. What the investigator varies in the experiment.
4. Appropriate values to use for the independent variable.
5. Treatment that eliminates the independent variable or sets a standard value.
6. What the investigator measures, counts, or records; what is being affected in the experiment.
7. Number of times the experiment is repeated.
8. Statement of the expected results of an experiment based on a tentative explanation.

**A. Identifying Variables**

1. More practice.....Identify the dependent and independent variables in the following experiments. Circle the dependent variable and underline the independent variable.
  - a. Number of hummingbirds visiting red, blue, and yellow flowers.
  - b. Tadpole length measured for 4 weeks.
  - c. Plant weight measured for tomato plants treated with 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% fertilizer concentrations for 8 weeks.
  - d. Plants are exposed to red, blue, and yellow wavelengths of light and the amount of oxygen produced during photosynthesis is recorded.

1. Using the following scenario, determine variables in the experiment.

Sarah designed an experiment to test whether the length of time spent hand-washing reduces the frequency of colds. She asked some students to wash their hands for 30 seconds, some for 60 seconds, and a third group for 90 seconds. What is the independent variable for this experiment? The dependent variable? Provide a minimum of two controlled variables. Provide a control for the experiment.

Independent variable:

Controlled variables:

Dependent variable:

Control Group: