

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNER OUTCOMES  
AP PSYCHOLOGY

What students should know:

1. Know theories of human behavior, learning or development
2. Know methods and techniques of primary research (e.g., interview techniques, narrative reporting, record keeping)
3. Know legal and ethical procedures related to research (e.g., copyright laws, use of human subjects)

What students should do:

1. Refine a topic into a clear statement of a research problem with subproblems
2. Create a plan for collecting data:
  - a. evaluate feasibility (e.g., access, confidentiality, obligations)
  - b. establish a process for conducting observations and recording descriptions
3. Gather and analyze data
4. Communicate findings:
  - a. describe key scenes, people, dialogue and or places
  - b. compare findings to theories of human interaction, learning or development
  - c. make conclusions based on findings
  - d. identify implications for further study

What students should do:

1. Identify how perspectives influence beliefs, actions and worldview
2. Identify how data and experiences may be interpreted differently
3. Identify issues, topics or concepts around which disagreement or ambiguity exists
  - a. describe a point of view concerning the issue
  - b. investigate reasons (e.g., race, class, gender) for identified points of view
  - c. investigate reasons for alternate viewpoints (e.g., race, class, gender)
  - d. analyze how the interpretation of an issue is affected by omitted viewpoints

District Learner Outcomes:

The learner outcomes for Advanced Placement Courses are prescribed as found in the “Guide Books” for the courses.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY  
(From Guidebook)

Advanced Placement Psychology is offered as a full year elective alternative to Senior Social Studies. There is no prerequisite for this course but it is highly recommended that students have a successful academic record, are highly motivated and possess a strong desire to understand the complexities of human behavior.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

There are two primary objectives of the A.P. Psychology Course. The first is to formally expose students to the scientific study of behavior. The second is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Psychology Exam which is administered in the spring of each year by the College Board. In order to satisfy these two goals, it is expected that upon completion of this course, each student will be able to display the following behaviors:

1. Communicate the history of the psychological study of behavior, the various theoretical approaches and methods of research.
2. Express an awareness of the complexities of behavior and an ability to suggest logical solutions to contemporary behavioral problems.
3. Design and conduct scientific experiments for the purpose of testing original and existing psychological theories. Use scientific methodology to apply and manipulate psychological methods, theories and standards.
4. Communicate a basic understanding of the cause and effect relationship between physiological psychology and behavior. Identify and understand the role, function and structure of basic chemical, glandular, neurological, and genetic influences on behavior.
5. Discuss the complexities and relationship between the various states of consciousness and behavior. Express familiarity with research involving meditation, psychotherapeutic drugs, hypnosis, sensory deprivation and biofeedback.
6. Understand and objectively analyze their own personality, social, physical and intellectual development through the application of the essential psychological theories on personality and development.
7. Communicate an understanding of the ways in which environmental forces influence behavior and development. Students will assess the impact of society, education, socioeconomic status and interaction.
8. Communicate knowledge of the types and causes of psychological dysfunction. Compare the various methods and approaches to treating disorders and prescribe the best treatment(s) for each disorder.
9. Analyze and communicate an understanding of the basic concepts and theories regarding sensation and perception.
10. Use the theories of Classical and Operant Conditioning to examine how learning is produced. Compare these to other theories such as those involving cognitive development, information processing, latent and observational learning.