

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

COURSE OF STUDY

COURSE TITLE:	IB Psychology Standard Level (SL)
COURSE NUMBER:	(Aeries)
CBEDS NUMBER:	(Aeries)
DEPARTMENT:	Social Studies
LENGTH OF COURSE:	1 year
CREDITS PER SEMESTER:	5
GRADE LEVEL(S):	11th or 12th
REQUIRED OR ELECTIVE:	Fulfills required a-g elective "g"
PREREQUISITES:	None

BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTION:

NOTE: This course is previously approved by the UC/CSU, under the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). Ygnacio Valley High School is an authorized IB World School and are therefore approved to offer IB classes with the IB curriculum. **Please see the attached Psychology guide published by the IBO, June 2018.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

At the core of the DP psychology course is an introduction to three different approaches to understanding behaviour: the biological, cognitive and sociocultural approaches. Students study and critically evaluate the knowledge, concepts, theories and research that have developed the understanding in these fields.

The interaction of these approaches to studying psychology forms the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to understanding mental processes and behaviour as a complex, dynamic phenomenon, allowing students to appreciate the diversity as well as the commonality between their own behaviour and that of others.

The contribution and the interaction of the three approaches is understood through the four options in the course, focusing on areas of applied psychology: abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, and the

psychology of relationships. The options provide an opportunity to take what is learned from the study of the approaches to psychology and apply it to specific lines of inquiry.

Psychologists employ a range of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, to test their observations and hypotheses. DP psychology promotes an understanding of the various approaches to research and how they are used to critically reflect on the evidence as well as assist in the design, implementation, analysis and evaluation of the students' own investigations. Surrounding the approaches and the options are the overarching themes of research and ethics. A consideration of both is paramount to the nature of the subject.

COURSE PURPOSE:

The aims of the psychology course at SL and at HL are to:

- develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behaviour
- apply an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural factors affecting mental processes and behaviour to at least one applied area of study
- understand diverse methods of inquiry z understand the importance of ethical practice in psychological research in general and observe ethical practice in their own inquiries
- ensure that ethical practices are upheld in all psychological inquiry and discussion
- develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied to address real-world problems and promote positive change
- provide students with a basis for further study, work and leisure through the use of an additional language z foster curiosity, creativity and a lifelong enjoyment of language learning.

COURSE OUTLINE:

(Please see Psychology Guide, pages 20 to 46 for more details.)

IB Psychology SL is a 1-year course consisting of four core components that all students learn, as well as an option that instructors can choose from. Students must complete an experimental study (minimum of 20 in-class hours). Also, students finish the year with external exams, similar to AP exams.

1. Core

- Biological approach to understanding behavior
- Cognitive approach to understanding behavior
- Sociocultural approach to understanding behavior
- Approaches to researching behavior

2. Options

- Abnormal psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Health psychology
- Psychology of human relationships

KEY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Experimental study
- Analysis of academic research related to psychology
- Statistical analysis of data

INSTRUCTIONS METHODS and/or STRATEGIES:

(Please see Psychology guide, pages 9 to 17 for more details.)

General IB approaches to teaching are

- Based on inquiry
- Focused on conceptual understanding
- Developed in local and global contexts
- Focused on effective teamwork and collaboration
- Differentiated to meet the needs of all learners
- Informed by formative and summative assessment

Strategies to meet these approaches with students include deliberate lesson planning that encourages students to develop these approaches to learning skills:

- Thinking
- Communication
- Social
- Self-management
- Research

ASSESSMENTS INCLUDING METHODS and/or TOOLS

(Please see Psychology guide, pages 48 to 75 for more details.)

There are ongoing formative and summative assessments throughout the course as prepared by the instructor. In addition, there are specific IB assessments called Internal Assessment (IA) and External Assessment (EA). Preparation for both the IAs and EAs are ongoing throughout the course.

IA: A report on an experimental study undertaken by the student

EA: Paper 1: Three short answer questions on the core. One essay from a choice of three on the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural approaches.

Paper 2: One question from a choice of three on one option.

Paper 3: Three short answer questions on approaches to research.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Board approved IB textbook.

For Honors Distinction:

CORRESPONDING NON-HONORS COURSE:

Psychology

DIFFERENCES in HONORS/NON-HONORS COURSES:

Recognized by the UC system as an honors course.

Committee Members:

1. Jennifer Collier

4. Efa Huckaby

2. Jeffrey Allen

5. Susan Shih

3. Carissa Weintraub

6. Sasha Robinson