

**Amherst-Pelham School District
Curriculum Overview**

Subject: Social Studies

Course: Psychology

Grade Level: 12

Concepts/Enduring Understandings/Themes	Topics/Units	Content/Skills	Essential Activities/Agreements
How did the field of psychology form and evolve? What is the nature of current research? Methods, ethics, reliability, applications	Introduction to Psychological Methods and Social Psychology	Note-taking and reading techniques Criteria for research evaluation Facilitation skills (Honors)	Evaluate landmark research study Create original research design
What is the structure and function of the human brain and nervous system? How do psychologists study the brain? Specialized research issues (Honors)	The Brain and Nervous System	Define brain functions; diagnose neurological damage from symptoms; write formal essay; facilitate discussion (honors)	Formal essay on brain structure and research methods Test
What are the basic sensory structures and systems? How does psychology explain illusions, pain, and attention issues?	Sensation and Perception	Form and test hypothesis on perceptual disfunctions; identify perceptual principles in art and visual illusions; apply perception and attention principles to design challenges	Present case studies Create product design
How can principles and practice of psychological research be applied?	Research Project	CP: Research and summarize a recent research study Honors: Research a current controversy	Inquiry research paper
What alternative theories of human development have shaped psychological understandings of human development? What evidence and application does each theory present?	Human Development	Develop criteria for theory evaluation Additional models (honors) Write a formal paper evaluating an assigned position on a controversial issue. Use data base research tools	Nature vs. nurture debate Exam Essay Facilitate discussion (honors)
What does current research suggest about the operation of learning and memory? How does this research inform school performance strategies? The Criminal justice system?	Learning and Memory	Review research. Create criteria for behavior modification plan and eyewitness policy	Behavior modification plan Eyewitness testimony policy statement Exam
What are the goals and applications of personality theories? What are major theoretical models? What issues affect testing validity?	Roots of Personality	Identify defense mechanisms in case studies; apply various theories to fictional characters; evaluate the validity of common online tests	Defense mechanism activity Fictional character analysis
How are various disorders defined and what therapeutic interventions exist? How can therapeutic effectiveness be evaluated?	Disorders and Therapeutic Approaches	Research disorders and treatment protocols; develop small group presentations and visuals; apply therapeutic models to case studies	Diagnosis and treatment activity Small group presentation EXAM
	ALL UNITS	Honors students have additional topics: see curriculum map	Class discussion and note-taking