

**NORTHERN BURLINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2021 Course Map/Pacing Guide**

<b>Department</b>	Social Studies	<b>Course</b>	AP Psychology
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**Source of Standards**

- New Jersey Student Learning [Standards 2020](#)
  - [College Board](#)
- [Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills](#);
  - All courses Focus on - 9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills (p. 49)

**Sequence- Unit Titles and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/ 36 year)**

**Unit 1: SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY (2.5 weeks)** - Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will learn about the basis of psychological theory as the study of human and animal behavior and mental processes and learn how psychologists design and conduct research.

**Unit 2: BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR (3 weeks)** - The structures of human biological systems and their functions influence our behavior and mental processes. Students will study behaviors and mental processes from a biological perspective and explore the effects of the interaction between human biology and our environment.

**Unit 3: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (3 weeks)** - Cognitive psychologists focus their research on the complex nature of the brain, particularly the areas of memory processes and the influences of mental processes on behavior. Students will examine the complex nature of how memory, intelligence, and other mental processes impact human behavior.

**Unit 4: SENSATION AND PERCEPTION (3 weeks)** - Psychologists study sensation and perception to explain how and why externally gathered sensations and perceptions impact behaviors and mental processes. Students will examine how humans perceive and process the world around them via their senses and convert those observations into perceptions that influence how we think and behave.

**Unit 5: LEARNING (2 weeks)** - Some psychologists focus on how humans and other animals learn and how some experiences can lead to changes in behavior and mental processes. Students will learn about the field of psychology that studies how humans and other animals learn as well as how learning changes over a lifetime.

**Unit 6: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (3.5 weeks)** - Developmental psychology encompasses the study of the behavior of organisms from conception to death. Students will study how physical and social changes over humans' lifespans can influence behavior and mental processes from a variety of perspectives.

**Unit 7: PERSONALITY (3 weeks)** - Psychologists use theory to categorize and explain different personalities. Students will study personality through the lens of behavior and mental processes and how they interact to produce an individual's

personality.

**Unit 8: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (4 weeks)** - Psychologists will utilize a particular theoretical perspective to study and treat psychological disorders. Students will learn how psychologists evaluate, study, and treat a range of psychological disorders.

**Unit 9: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 weeks)** - Psychological concepts and theoretical perspectives are pulled together from the course. Students will examine how humans interact in groups and social situations, as well as how others can affect an individual's behavior and mental processes.

**Unit 10: APPLICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (6 weeks)** - Following the AP Test, the class will conduct a survey of how psychology is intertwined in every facet of our lives. Students will examine a host of topics including, but not limited to, Crime, Relationships, Media, and Social Status.

### Big Ideas/[Enduring Understanding \(link to guide\)](#)

- Psychology examines human behavior and the mental processes through many different theories.
- Due to the nature of studying human behavior and the mind, psychologists must follow defined ethical standards and research methodology to ensure reliability and validity of their theories.
- Research and testing are essential in providing validity to psychological theories.
- Psychologists must understand the basics of neural science in order to develop valid theories about how our environment affects our behavior and mental processes.
- Each stage of consciousness is important to our biological and psychological development.
- Altered states of consciousness can have a positive and adverse effect on our biological and psychological development.
- The human ability to biologically adapt to our ever-changing environment allows our species to develop, thrive, and cope through social interactions with others.
- How human beings grow and develop physically and psychologically help in studying and understanding human behavior.
- The environment influences our personality development and affects our behavior and interactions with others.
- Due to the intricate nature of the human mind, disorders may occur that must be studied to improve our understanding of psychology.
- That varying environments and social situations can have a positive and adverse effect on our behavior.
- Provided the right conditions, average individuals can be made to commit the most heinous and/or heroic acts.
- Psychology is integrated into all aspects of our daily life.
- Psychology is embedded in many career pathways.

### [Essential Questions \(link to guide\)](#)

- How are the many subfields and perspectives of psychology related?
- How does the methodology of the research affect the outcome of a study?
- How do ethical guidelines impact psychological research?
- What is Intelligence and how can we study it to understand it?
- How can biology influence our behavior and mental processes?
- What happens when a particular neurotransmitter is absent from the body?
- How do biological and environmental factors interact to influence our behaviors and mental processes?

- What roles do memory and thinking play in our behaviors?
- What motivates us to think and act the way we do?
- Why do some people respond to stress in a healthier way than others?
- How do we process the information we receive from our environment?
- How does our interpretation of the information we receive from the environment influence our behaviors and mental processes?
- How do we Learn?
- How do our experiences influence our behaviors and mental processes?
- How do we perceive and understand ourselves?
- How do psychologists explain our individual differences despite genetic similarities?
- How important is one's personality to psychology and to human well-being?
- Why is psychological perspective necessary in the treatment of disorders?
- How are psychological disorders treated?
- How do attitudes impact our behaviors and mental processes?
- How does the bias of a researcher affect their conclusions?
- How can Psychology be applied in our everyday lives?

### [Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to pyramid)

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

### [Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans

### Resources (Text and Technology)

- *Psychology 11th edition* (Myers and Dewall)
- "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce
- PBS video on the Conscious Mind
- Critical essay on the Neuroscience perspective
- Reading on the Activation Synthesis Theory
- Analysis of Freud's theory on dreams
- Reading on the universality of facial expressions and body language
- *Discovering Psychology* video series
- Reading on how human perceive their environment
- Classical Conditioning Case Study on Conditioned Aggression
- Reading on the theories of B.F. Skinner
- Case Study demonstrating the principles of Classical and Operant Conditioning
- Reading on the principles of Observational Learning
- Reading on Cognitive Learning
- Critical essay on the Behavior and Cognitive perspectives
- Reading on 'Genie; The Wild Child'
- Reading on Moral Development
- Psychology of Teens
- TLC Feral Children video
- Critical Comparison of Erikson and Freud
- Critical essay on the Psychoanalysis and Humanism
- A&E Biography on Sigmund Freud
- *A Beautiful Mind* - Film
- Reading on the Causes of Psychological Disorders

- Case Study on the difference between Psychotic Disorders and Psychotic Features
- Case Study on Major Depressive Disorder
- Year-to-date review of psychological disorders
- ABC News Migrim Revisited
- Student Choice Reading (Milgrim of Stanford Prison Experiment)
- Reading on 'Nacirema'
- Pro / Antisocial Behaviors webquest
- Social Psychology Case Study
- Video Case Study on Depression and Anxiety
- End of the Year Video Case Study
- A&E Criminal Profiler series
- *It's Kind of a Funny Story* Film
- *Forrest Gump* Film
- *Remember the Titans* Film