STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

Psychology is the science of behavior and mind, and many majors require it.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
0.5 credit	**60 h**	**20 h**	**40 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 0.5-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

20 h StudyWalks (4.9 h of lessons, 9.5 h of lectures, 5.6 h of quizzes and exams) + **40 h** suggested offline study = **60 h**. 691 lessons in 13 units; prepares for the CLEP Introductory Psychology exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**Psychology as a Science & Research Methods** What the subject is · Six schools, in order · Four perspectives, and one model · Who does this work · Theory, hypothesis, falsifiability · Saying how you measured · The scientific method, run · Who gets studied · Three ways of looking · Correlation, and the error · Reading a coefficient · Three ways a relationship misleads · The experiment · Confounds, and control · Designing one · Significance · Ethics · Replication, and the capstone	65	53 min (2 parts)
2	**Biopsychology** The cell · The signal · All or none · The gap · Turning it up, and down · Tracing a signal across the synapse · Seven messengers · The wiring · Three divisions · Four structures beneath the cortex · The cortex, and four lobes · Two language areas · Localising a deficit · Two hemispheres, and change · The glands · Genes · Bounds, and the capstone	67	53 min (2 parts)
3	**Consciousness & Sleep** The clock · Fighting the clock · Why sleep · Four stages · Depth is not vividness · The cycle, traced · Dreams · Sleep disorders · Substances, and what repeated use produces · Five classes · Two induced states, and the capstone	39	31 min
4	**Sensation & Perception** Two words · Two directions · Thresholds · Below threshold · The observer's part · Light · The eye · Light to the cortex · Color · Depth · Sound · Sound to the cortex · Pitch, and loss · The chemical senses · The body senses · Pain · Five grouping principles · Stability, and readiness · Naming the principle at work · The capstone	58	49 min (2 parts)
5	**Learning** Learning, and the simplest case · Five roles · Labelling, before during and after · Weakening, and coming back · Spreading, and narrowing · Two studies · Four cases, labelled · What is actually learned · The second mechanism · Four cells · What works as a reinforcer · Five schedules · Choosing one · Stopping, and the trap · Learning without either · Watching · Four ways it fails · The capstone	61	48 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
6	**Memory** Three operations · Two kinds of processing · Three encoding types, and one effect · The first two stores · How much fits · Working memory · Long-term, and its divisions · Three structures · Three measures · Cues, and matching · Forgetting · Interference, and amnesia · Memory is not a recording · What actually works · The capstone	50	41 min (2 parts)
7	**Cognition, Language & Intelligence** Categories · Frameworks · Language, from sound up · Acquiring it · Two ways to solve · Three strategies · What prior success costs · Four substitutions · What it is, and how many · Other capacities, and one myth · Two tests, and a ratio · What makes a test a test · The dangerous combination · Scores in populations · Reading a report, and the capstone	55	46 min (2 parts)
8	**Lifespan Development** The subject, and three questions · Three designs · Before birth · The first year · Piaget's four stages · Vygotsky, and other minds · Attachment · Four parenting styles · Psychosocial stages · Moral reasoning · Adolescence · Adulthood, and the end · Placing a child · Reading a design · The capstone	58	46 min (2 parts)
9	**Motivation, Emotion & Stress** What motivation is, and two early theories · Arousal · Belief, and two sources · The hierarchy, and its standing · Hunger · Three eating disorders · Sexuality and identity · Four theories of emotion · Comparing them · Expression · Stress, and appraisal · What the body does · Patterns and workplaces · Coping · Flourishing · A plan, and the capstone	50	43 min (2 parts)
10	**Personality** The subject, and the first perspective · Three structures · Defenses · Stages, and three successors · Learning, and belief · The humanistic approach · Biology · Traits, not types · Four reductions · The five · Measurement · Scoring, and the capstone	40	31 min
11	**Social & Organizational Psychology** Two explanations, and four errors · Roles · Dissonance, and attitudes · Persuasion · Conformity · Compliance, and obedience · Groups deciding · Groups performing · Three words that are not synonyms · How groups see each other · Aggression · Helping, and not · Attraction · Selecting and appraising · Conditions of work · Diagnosis, and the capstone	61	48 min (2 parts)
12	**Psychological Disorders & Treatment** What counts as a disorder · Two systems · Three perspectives, and one model · Anxiety disorders · Obsessions, compulsions, and after trauma · Depression, and what it is not · Bipolar, and a specifier · Risk, and what is still under study · Psychosis · Dissociation, and personality · Developmental, and substance use · Assessing a case · Where treatment happens · The behavioral therapies · The cognitive therapies · Two older traditions, and two formats · Medication · What predicts outcome, and what prevents it · Matching · Evaluating a claim, and the capstone	77	1 h 6 min (3 parts)
13	**Capstone Strand (synthesis only)** Auditing a headline · The certain witness · A day without sleep · Six perspectives · Building one habit · A study plan · Why ordinary people did it · A life · One case, one plan · What the course can and cannot tell you	10	18 min

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 13 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–7, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 95 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (63 of 95 correct, about 66%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 40 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of *Psychology 2e (OpenStax); Introduction to Psychology*, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	Psychology as a Science & Research Methods	1 h 21 min	3 h 45 min	5 h 6 min
2	Biopsychology	1 h 21 min	3 h 45 min	5 h 6 min
3	Consciousness & Sleep	47 min	2 h 10 min	2 h 57 min
4	Sensation & Perception	1 h 13 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 38 min
5	Learning	1 h 14 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 39 min
6	Memory	1 h 2 min	2 h 55 min	3 h 57 min
7	Cognition, Language & Intelligence	1 h 9 min	3 h 10 min	4 h 19 min
8	Lifespan Development	1 h 11 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 26 min
9	Motivation, Emotion & Stress	1 h 4 min	3 h	4 h 4 min
10	Personality	48 min	2 h 15 min	3 h 3 min
Lessons and lectures		**14 h 24 min**	**40 h**	**54 h 24 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**5 h 36 min**	**—**	**5 h 36 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
11	Social & Organizational Psychology	1 h 14 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 39 min
12	Psychological Disorders & Treatment	1 h 38 min	4 h 30 min	6 h 8 min
13	Capstone Strand (synthesis only)	22 min	1 h	1 h 22 min
Lessons and lectures		**14 h 24 min**	**40 h**	**54 h 24 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**5 h 36 min**	**—**	**5 h 36 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

Sources

- **Anchor:** Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., & Lovett, M. D. *Psychology 2e*. Houston: OpenStax, Rice University, 2026 printing. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Secondary witness:** Cummings, J. A., & Sanders, L. *Introduction to Psychology*. Saskatoon: University of Saskatchewan Open Press, 2022. Adapted from Stangor & Walinga (2014), the Noba Project, and Price, Jhangiani, Chiang, Leighton & Cuttler (2017). CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

StudyWalks finals are modeled on the CLEP exam blueprint in scope, format, and rigor. Scores are StudyWalks scores, not CLEP scores, and are not affiliated with or recognized by the College Board.

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