



Teacher: Kimberly Sinclair

Course Duration: September 2025 – May 2026

Welcome to IB Psychology

IB Psychology explores human behavior through biological, cognitive, and sociocultural lenses. This course emphasizes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and the application of psychological concepts to real-world issues, preparing students for advanced study in the social sciences.

Course Overview

The curriculum covers core approaches to psychology and options such as Abnormal Psychology. Students engage in research, collaborative projects, and critical analysis to deepen their understanding.

Semester 1: September 2025 – January 2026

1. Biological Approach

- **Topics:** Brain and behavior, neurotransmitters, neuroplasticity, hormones, genetics, and evolutionary theory.
- **Activities:** Building a neuron model, naturalistic observation project, and content tests.
- **Assessment:** Paper 1-style extended response question (ERQ).

2. Research Methods

- **Topics:** Qualitative and quantitative methods, variables, sampling, ethics, reliability, and validity.
- **Activities:** Conducting a naturalistic observation, analyzing peer-reviewed studies, and designing experiments.
- **Assessment:** Critical analysis of research using IB criteria.

3. Sociocultural Approach

- **Topics:** Social identity theory, stereotypes, cultural dimensions, enculturation, and acculturation.
- **Activities:** Group discussions on in/outgroup dynamics, exploring cultural influences on behavior, and creating visual presentations.

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- **Assessment:** Short-answer questions (SAQs) and ERQs.

4. Cognitive Approach

- **Topics:** Memory models, schema theory, thinking and decision-making, reconstructive memory, and emotion.
 - **Activities:** Case studies on cognitive biases, interactive memory experiments, and schema analysis tasks.
 - **Assessment:** Paper 1-style SAQs and ERQs.
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Semester 2: February 2026 – May 2026

1. Abnormal Psychology

- **Topics:** Diagnosis and classification systems, clinical biases, biological and cultural influences, and treatment of mental health disorders.
- **Activities:** Self-analysis on stress and mental health, creating action plans for well-being, and exploring case studies.
- **Assessment:** Paper 2-style ERQs and SAQs.

2. Internal Assessment (IA)

- Students conduct an independent experiment, analyzing results and presenting findings.
- **Timeline:** Introduced in Semester 1 of Year 2; draft due four weeks after start; final submission in March.

3. Exam Preparation

- Mock exams, review of past papers, and teacher-guided feedback on practice assessments.
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Assessments

1. Internal Assessment (IA):

- An experimental study designed and conducted by the student, demonstrating research and analytical skills.
- **Support:** Peer-reviewed study analysis, guided discussions on ethical considerations, and teacher feedback on drafts.

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2. External Assessments:

- **Paper 1:** Core approaches to psychology.
- **Paper 2:** Options (e.g., Abnormal Psychology).
- **Paper 3 (HL only):** Research methods and critical analysis.

3. Formative Assessments:

- Content tests, short assignments, and participation in group discussions.
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Resources

• Primary Materials:

- InThinking IB resources, peer-reviewed journals (via EBSCO Host), and Psychology textbooks (2021 edition).

• Digital Tools:

- Online databases, video lectures, and digital platforms for collaborative research.

• Supplementary Resources:

- Case studies, visual media, and guest speakers on Indigenous perspectives and mental health.
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Skill Development

- **Research Skills:** Conduct experiments, analyze data, and evaluate findings.
 - **Critical Thinking:** Assess psychological theories and their applications.
 - **Cultural Awareness:** Explore the influence of culture on behavior and cognition.
 - **Collaboration:** Work with peers to investigate and present psychological concepts.
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Why Study IB Psychology?

This course provides a scientific understanding of human behavior and equips students with research, analytical, and communication skills applicable across fields like health, education, and business.