

# History of Psychology

Fall, 2014

**Course:** This is a survey course designed to provide you with a synthetic overview of the major people and ideas that have shaped psychology. In short, this course will be a whirlwind tour of the key events in the history of psychology from Adam up through about the 1990s.

**Text:** *An Introduction to the History of Psychology*, Hergenhahn & Henley, 7th edition.

**The Basics:** Do the reading. If you do I promise you will find this class both educational and easy, if you don't--well--it may not be pretty. Let me be blunt, if you do not do the readings you almost certainly will fail this course. Also, keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class. The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that cheating (broadly defined) is not allowed. Or, as the university likes me to say: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)." If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating please see me. Also, note that "Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services."

**Format:** In general this will be a lecture course, though I (seriously) encourage you to interrupt me with your thought-provoking questions at any time. Since this is an upper-division class I would like to see it materialize somewhat like a seminar, that is, with people jumping in with comments frequently.

**Grades:** There will be three in-class tests and three short (10 page-ish) papers. The tests will be worth 50 total points and will be composed of roughly half multiple choice questions (mostly from the reading) and essay questions (equaling the other half of the points, and being drawn mostly from the lecture).

Final grades will be based on your 5 best scores from these 6 assignments, plus any extra-credit you may do. The grade scale is shown below. As for extra-credit, while I am a believer in the idea I am not certain what options we will have this term. Traditionally students participate in research studies to earn extra-credit. If not many such studies are available we can no doubt make alternative arrangements like writing extra papers. Those interested in extra-credit should speak with me before doing something to ensure that it will count.

The Grade Scale will be:	A=	230 and above (~92%)
	B=	210 to 229 (~84%)
	C=	190 to 209 (~76%)
	D=	170 to 189 (~68%)
	F=	169 and below

## Papers:

Paper 1 Topics - pick one of these two

Read one the Plato's Socratic dialogues. Extend that work after a new sophist who holds a position common to a modern psychologist joins the conversation.

Read Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations*, write a book report on how it relates to modern clinical or social psychology

Paper 2 Topics - pick one of these three

Read Darwin's *Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, write a book report on its importance for the history of animal psychology

Read James' *Varieties of Religious Experience*, write a book report on the relationship between psychology and religion relevant for today

Read Skinner's *Walden Two*, write a book report on what the world would be like if Skinner were the World Overlord.

Paper 3 Topics - pick one of these four

Read either Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents* or his *Psychopathology of Everyday Life*. In your book report discuss how Freud actually differs from what you expected.

Read Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. In your book report discuss the relevance of existentialism for contemporary psychology.

Read Gould's *Mismeasure of Man*. In your book report discuss how intelligence testing *should* be used in the public schools.

Write a report tracing the history of one of these topics: artificial intelligence, categorization, psycholinguistics, cognitive development or social cognition.

**Late Penalties and Make-ups:** Papers turned in late will be charged 5 points per day as a late penalty. The first missed exam will become your drop grade. If you miss more than one exam, you will need to see me about what to do for a make-up.

## The Schedule of Events (have the reading listed that day done before class)

### August

Tu 26 Course Overview

Th 28 Basic Issues in History Chapter 1  
Basic Themes and Issues in the Philosophy of Psychology

### September

Tu 2 Pre-Socratic Philosophy in Greece and Elsewhere Chapter 2

Th 4 Plato and Aristotle Chapter 3  
Later Greek thought

Tu 9 Rome and the Middle Ages  
Islamic Influences

Th 11 Renaissance Philosophy and Science Chapter 4  
Descartes and his contemporaries

Tu 16 British Empiricism, Associationism and French Sensationalism Chapter 5  
Positivism

Th 18	Early Rationalism: Kant and Hegel The Scottish School and German Faculty Theories	Chapter 6
Tu 23	Romanticism and Existentialism	Chapter 7
Th 25	<b>TEST-1 and PAPER-1</b>	
Tu 30	Early Physiology Phrenology and Early Psychophysics	Chapter 8
<i>October</i>		
Th 2	Voluntarism and Wundt Structuralism and Titchener	Chapter 9
Tu 7	Phenomenological Alternatives to Structuralism	
Th 9	Evolution Animal Psychology	Chapter 10
Tu 14	Galton and British Psychology Individual Differences	
Th 16	American Psychology through William James	Chapter 11
Tu 21	James' Contemporaries, then Functionalism	
Th 23	Thorndike Russian Psychology	Chapter 12
Tu 28	Watson and Behaviorism McDougall	
Th 30	Positivism Revisited Guthrie, Hull, and Skinner Tolman and beyond	Chapter 13
<i>November</i>		
Tu 4	<b>TEST-2 and PAPER-2</b>	
Th 6	Gestalt Psychology	Chapter 14
Tu 11	Psychopathology before Freud	Chapter 15
Th 13	Freud's Psychology	Chapter 16
Tu 18	Freud continued...	
Th 20	Existential and Humanistic Alternatives	Chapter 17
Tu 25	Psychobiology	Chapter 18
<b>Thanksgiving BREAK</b>		
<i>December</i>		
Tu 2	Cognitive and Social Psychology	Chapter 19
Th 4	Cognitive Science ...and Beyond	Chapter 20
Final exam period <b>TEST-3 and PAPER-3</b>		

**The Instructor:** I am Tracy B. Henley, PhD. I should be in the office every class day during the early afternoon. If that is not good for you, see me after class and we can find an alternative time for an appointment. You can also contact me at [tracy.henley@tamuc.edu](mailto:tracy.henley@tamuc.edu)