

History of Psychology

Spring, 2019

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.

“The fewer the words the better the prayer” Martin Luther

Text: *Hergenhahn's An Introduction to the History of Psychology*, Henley, 8th edition.

“The great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it” William James

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 unfolds - at some point we'll get behind (or maybe ahead). 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." Last... Be advised that only qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, even license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

“When in doubt, tell the truth” Mark Twain

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 be happy to see it materialize somewhat like a seminar, that is, with people jumping in with comments frequently.

“Never interrupt your enemy while he is making a mistake” Napoleon

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%)

“I have worked as hard and as well as I could, and no man can do more than this” Darwin

Papers:

Paper 1 Topics - pick one of these three

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

Read Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations*; write an essay on how it relates to one or more aspects of modern clinical or social psychology.

Find an academic work from anthropology or archaeology about the Neolithic Age that gives you some insights about the social psychology of Stone Age peoples.

Paper 2 Topics - pick one of these three

Read Darwin's *Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, write an essay on its importance for the history of animal or evolutionary psychology.

Read James' *Varieties of Religious Experience*, write an essay on the relationship between its psychology and religion relevant for today.

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

Paper 3 Topics - pick one of these three

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

Read Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. In your report discuss the relevance of existentialism for psychology in 2018.

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

“You cannot teach a man anything: You can only help him find it within himself” Galileo

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.

“We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done” Longfellow

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

January

14 M	Course Overview	
16 W	Basic Issues in History	Chapter 1
18 F	Basic Themes and Issues in the Philosophy of Psychology	
21 M	NO CLASS	
23 W	In the beginning...	
25 F	Pre-Socratic Philosophy in Greece and Elsewhere	Chapter 2
28 M	Plato and Aristotle	
30 W	Later Greek thought and Rome	Chapter 3

February

1 F	The Middle Ages and Islamic Influences	
4 M	Renaissance Philosophy and Science	Chapter 4
6 W	Descartes and his contemporaries	
8 F	British Empiricism	Chapter 5
11 M	Associationism and French Sensationalism	
13 W	Positivism	
15 F	Early Rationalism: Kant and Hegel	Chapter 6
18 M	The Scottish School and German Faculty Theories	
20 W	Romanticism and Existentialism	Chapter 7
22 F	TEST-1 and PAPER-1	
25 M	Early Physiology and Phrenology	Chapter 8
27 W	Early Psychophysics	

March

1 F	Voluntarism and Wundt	Chapter 9
4 M	Structuralism and Titchener	
6 W	Phenomenological Alternatives to Structuralism	
8 F	Evolution and Animal Psychology	Chapter 10
11 M	Galton and British Psychology	
13 W	Individual Differences	
15 F	American Psychology through William James	Chapter 11

SPRING BREAK

25 M	James' Contemporaries, then Functionalism	
27 W	Thorndike	
29 F	Russian Psychology	Chapter 12

April

1 M	Watson and Behaviorism	
3 W	Positivism Revisited Guthrie	Chapter 13
5 F	Hull	
8 M	Skinner	
10 W	Tolman and beyond	
12 F	TEST-2 and PAPER-2	
15 M	Gestalt Psychology	Chapter 14

17 W	Psychopathology before Freud	Chapter 15
19 F	Freud's Psychology	Chapter 16
22 M	More Freud...	
24 W	Existential and Humanistic Alternatives	Chapter 17
26 F	Psychobiology	Chapter 18
29 M	Cognitive and Social Psychology	Chapter 19
<i>May</i>		
1 W	More Cognition and Cognitive Science	
3 F	Artificial Intelligence ...and Beyond	Chapter 20

Final exam period **TEST-3 and PAPER-3**

“Chance favors the prepared mind” Louis Pasteur

The Instructor: I am Tracy B. Henley, PhD. I should generally be around THE MAIN OFFICE in Binnion every class day. If that is not good for you, see me before/after class and we can find an alternative time for an appointment most any day except Tuesday. You can also contact me at tracy.henley@tamuc.edu

“We will either find a way, or we will make one” Hannibal
