

History and Systems of Psychology

Psy 5100

Fall 2006

Meeting Time: Thursday, 8:00p-10:30p

Meeting Place: Education 107/Satellite

Instructor: Heather Chapman

E-mail: hjchapman@cc.usu.edu, or via WebCT (preferred)

Phone: 435 797-1111 (Leave a message if no answer; DO NOT CALL THE CELL PHONE NUMBER GIVEN ON THE MESSAGE!!)

Office: Education Building Room 493

Office Hours: MWF 12-1, or By Appointment

Required Text:

An Introduction to the History of Psychology, B. R. Hergenhahn

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to trace the roots of psychology from ancient to modern times. The definition of psychology has changed dramatically over its history, and this course is intended to cover what those definitions have been and how they have shaped the current state of the field.

Objectives:

After successful completion of the course students should be able to:

1. Identify the founders of the field of psychology
2. Recognize the influence of these people on the field
3. Identify several distinct stages in the thinking of psychologists over time
4. Be able to identify several different theoretical perspectives present in the field
5. Be able to discuss these different theoretical perspectives
6. Understand the historical perspective of psychology and why it is important today
7. Recognize how historical ideals continue to contribute to new ideas in psychology

Course Requirements:

WebCT*: All tests and assignments will be submitted through use of WebCT using the University browser. WebCT is an online resource for instructors and students that allows easier interaction in a situation such as distance education. Rather than attempting to coordinate tests, assignments and papers back and forth via traditional mail or an e-mail distribution list, all of this can be handled via WebCT. A brief introduction to this service is given below.

*those taking the class through the correctional system, if WebCT is not an option, other forms of communication will be determined.

To access WebCT: webct.usu.edu

or, USU Homepage→Index→W→WebCT

Login to WebCT: New Access student ID number (A number)

Password: 6-digit Access password

Grading:

A	94-100%	C	74-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-73%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	84-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-83%	F	Below 63%
C+	77-79%		

Student grades will be based upon the following items:

1. Attendance/Class Participation (10 pts)
2. Student Homepage (10 pts)
3. Points of Discussion (110 pts)
4. In-Class Exams (75 pts each)
5. Final Project (175 pts)

Total Possible: 530 pts

Each of these items will be outlined in the pages that follow.

Attendance/Class Participation (10pts)

Attendance and participation in class are recommended. The majority of class discussion and instruction will follow directly from student feedback and questions/comments. In order to maintain the momentum for this discussion, it will be necessary for all individuals to participate and offer comments on the topics being covered.

Student Homepage (10pts)

Due Date: September 28th

Located on the WebCT course homepage is an icon labeled "Student Homepages". This link is accessible to all students who log on to the Psy 5100 homepage and allows students to introduce themselves to one another. Due to the informal nature of distance education, the student homepages link offers an opportunity to personalize things a bit and allows students from various corners of the state to relate to one another.

To encourage this method of personalization, all students will be required to complete and personalize a student homepage in whatever manner seen fit.

Points of Discussion (10 pts each)

Due Date: Each Wednesday, 5pm

In order to focus class time on the interests and trouble areas of the students, each of you will be required to submit one (1) thoughtful question or comment relating to the readings each week or to some area of the course that is unclear. Along with this, each student will be required to comment on the thoughts and questions of **one other student** each week.

These questions and comments should be thoughtful in that they should, whenever possible, attempt to relate current readings and ideas to previously learned material or future topics.

The format for submitting these comments is as follows:

Students will be required to post their question/comment on the WebCT Weekly Discussions section. Each week will have its own section for posting comments. Once the due date for posting comments for a particular week has passed, only partial credit will be rewarded. Students will then be required to read through the postings of other students and comment on one of their choosing. Again, these comments should be well thought out. Brief answers or comments will not be accepted for credit.

These questions/comments are due no later than the **Wednesday before** each class period by **5 pm** and are to cover the material that will be presented in class that week. **PODs are not** required on test weeks.

Some weeks the instructor may have a question or comment that is important for the material being covered and may post something on the Weekly Discussion section. Students may respond to postings by the instructor in order to receive credit for that week's reply.

In-Class Exams (75 pts each)

Due Date: October 2-October 6, October 30-November 3, December 11-15

There will be three (3) in-class exams. These exams will be given approximately every five weeks. **This is an approximation!** Exact dates for each exam will be determined dependent upon the flow of class discussions. Exams will not be comprehensive, but some material from previous sections may show up on a later test depending on how much new information relates to old. If this is the case, the old material will be presented as a link to current material.

Test format will be as follows:

- 20 multiple choice questions – 2 pts each
- 3 short-answer/matching questions – 5 pts each
- 2 essay questions – 10 pts each
- Total: 75 pts each exam

Tests will be given using WebCT (see above). **There will be no class on test weeks, and no Point of Discussion due.** Students will be required to log-in to WebCT at some point before 6pm on the day of the test to complete it. No retakes of exams will be allowed except in the most extreme cases (i.e. death or serious illness to you or your immediate family, jury duty, etc). Anyone not able to use WebCT to take exams (i.e. prison population) will be provided with a paper copy on the day of the test to be completed during regularly scheduled class time.

Final Project (175 pts)

Students will be required to write a series of papers concerning an important theoretical dichotomy in psychology. Students will be expected to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of two important theoretical frameworks, culminating with a discussion of the importance of each philosophy and the students' opinions as to which holds more merit. 3 papers will be written over the course of the semester. Topics for these papers can be one of the following:

Empiricism v. Rationalism

Positivism v. Modernism (there are several forms of this such as post-positivism, postmodernism, premodernism, etc that can also be compared with approval from the instructor)

Structuralism v. Functionalism

Determinism v. Nondeterminism

Universalism v. Relativism

Existentialism v. Realism

These are a few of the options that are possible. If you have another dichotomy that you would like to investigate, that may be arranged. **APPROVAL MUST BE GAINED FOR ALL TOPICS NOT LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS.** Chapter 1 includes several possible alternate topic choices and several more will appear throughout the text.

3 papers will be written throughout the semester. The first two papers will describe in turn each of the philosophies being explored. The third will be a summation of the first two that integrates suggestions for changes offered by the instructor, as well as a small section in which the student will explain in their opinion which of the two options is best and why. These three papers and the points breakdown will be explained below.

First Paper: Explanation of first part of the dichotomy (50 pts):

Due Date: October 13

Length: 5 pages

Each student will have chosen a philosophical dichotomy that has had an impact on contemporary psychology. This first paper will look at the first portion of the dichotomy in-depth. This investigation should include an explanation of who is given credit for first discussing the philosophy, what is the specific rationale behind the philosophy, and how this philosophy has affected contemporary psychology. This should also include a brief description of any offshoots of the philosophy that have arisen or that are more widely followed today.

Second Paper: Explanation of second part of the dichotomy (50 pts):

Due Date: November 22

Length: 5 pages

The second paper will have the same requirements as the first, but will be an investigation of the second part of the dichotomy. This investigation should include an explanation of who is given credit for first discussing the philosophy, what is the specific rationale behind the philosophy, and how this philosophy has affected contemporary

psychology. This should also include a brief description of any offshoots of the philosophy that have arisen or that are more widely followed today.

Final Paper: Summation of first two parts and student input (75 pts):

Due Date: December 7

Length: 7-10 pages

The final paper will be an integration of the first two papers. Students will be required to combine both of their first two papers into a coherent explanation of the chosen topics. This will require adjusting the flow of the first two papers to combine into a smooth final paper. Students **SHOULD NOT** turn in their first two papers simply combined into one large paper and expect credit. Papers of this sort will not be considered as complete and will not be graded. One final part to be included in the last paper is a discussion of which of the topics holds more merit in contemporary psychology. This can include a small section in which the student expresses his or her opinion of the topics.

Late Assignments

Late work will be accepted for partial credit up to the last class period. Students who explain the circumstances for a late submission in advance with the instructor may receive full credit for the assignment, although this is not guaranteed and will depend upon the circumstances. Any student who does not contact the instructor beforehand will receive a dock in grade according to the following guidelines:

Work up to **1 week** late: 10% dock in points

Work **2-3 weeks** late: 20% dock in points

Work **over 3 weeks** late: 50% dock in points

Extra Credit Opportunities (up to 15pts):

Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester for a maximum total of 15 points. These are described below:

Current Events:

The field of psychology is continually evolving. More and more is being discovered on a daily basis as tools improve and technology advances. To encourage awareness of the world around you, each student is offered the opportunity to share any current news related to the topics in the form of articles to be submitted on a weekly basis. One article a week will be accepted by a student worth one point of extra credit each, for a total of 15 possible points throughout the semester. Articles must be current (published within 6 months of the current time period).

Contacting the Instructor:

If at any point any student has questions or problems during the course of the semester, please feel free to contact the instructor. Especially due to the nature of distance education and the futility of having office hours (a luxury that on-campus students receive) contacting the instructor is encouraged. Due to the large class size and in order not to overwhelm my inbox(!), all messages to be sent to the instructor should be sent through WebCT. To do this, use the Contacts link on the course homepage. If for some

reason you don't receive a response from me through WebCT, my e-mail address is always an option, but please out of courtesy, use WebCT first. (Much appreciated!!)

Disability Statement

Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Changes in Course Assignments and Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust course readings, assignments, and test dates to best attain the objectives of the course. Any changes will be announced in class or posted on WebCT.

Course Calendar:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings & Assignments</u>
1	31-Aug	Introduction, WebCT	Ch 1
2	7-Sept	Greek Philosophers	Ch 2, Ch 3
3	14-Sept	Empiricism, Positivism	Ch 4, Ch 5
4	21-Sept	Rationalism, Existentialism	Ch 6
5	28-Sept	Philosophies con't, Review Exam 1	Ch 7
6	5-Oct	Exam 1	
7	12-Oct	Structuralism, Darwin, Functionalism	Ch 9, Ch 10
8	19-Oct	Functionalism	Ch 11
9	26-Oct	Gestalt, Intro to Behaviorism, Review Exam 2	Ch 12, Ch 14
10	2-Nov	Exam 2	
11	9-Nov	Behaviorism, Mental Illness	Ch 13, Ch 15
12	16-Nov	Psychoanalysis and Neo-Freudians	Ch 16, Ch 17
13	23-Nov	NO CLASS; HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
14	30-Nov	Early Physiology, Humanistic Psychology and Psychobiology	Ch 8, Ch 18, Ch 19
15	7-Dec	Cognitive and Contemporary Psychology, Review Exam 3	Ch 20, Ch 21
16	14-Dec	Exam 3	

Assignment Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
6-Sep	POD #1, 5pm	25-Oct	POD #7, 5pm
13-Sep	POD #2, 5pm	30-Oct to 3-Nov	Exam 2
20-Sep	POD #3, 5pm	8-Nov	POD #8
27-Sep	POD #4, 5pm	15-Nov	POD #9
28-Sep	Student Homepage	22-Nov	Second Paper
2-Oct to 6-Oct	Exam 1	29-Nov	POD #10
11-Oct	POD #5, 5pm	6-Dec	POD #11
13-Oct	First Paper	7-Dec	Final Paper
18-Oct	POD #6, 5pm	11-Dec to 15-Dec	Exam 3