

Psychology 210

History of Modern Psychology

Winter 2004 ~ Dr. R. G. Tonks

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Course Description:

This course traces the origins and growth of psychological thought. The emphasis will be on larger social-historical contexts that shaped thoughts about human psychology. The topics will cover contributions of early Greek thinkers, medieval and renaissance scholars, formal beginnings, and development of the discipline in the last two centuries.

Learning Outcomes:

At completion of the course the students will be able to understand and meaningfully articulate:

- perspectives in the philosophy of science including epistemology and ontology.
 - the impact of social context or zeitgeist on the development of a scientific discipline
 - the psycho-biographical approach to history
 - the philosophical and practical foundations to contemporary psychology
 - various psychological perspectives or schools that have arisen in the 20th century
 - a brief history of psychology in Canada
 - the relationship between pure and applied psychology
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In the past, people have reported that they took this course because it was required and that they considered history to be "a thing of the past." Others, myself included, believe that a great deal can be gained by understanding the history of the ideas and practices of our discipline. This includes understanding the various connections that have formed between psychologist's goals and practices and the values and expectations of the members of the societies that such "professional psychologists" serve. Studying the history of psychology may also benefit

today's students (tomorrow's psychologists) by helping us to avoid repeating past mistakes and accepting the stale recycling of old ideas.

Beyond these pragmatic contributions, this course offers an opportunity to develop "perspective" on psychology that can be synthesized through a detailed analysis and understanding of the ebb and flow of various "paradigms" of psychology and science. Following its completion, I expect that you will be able to critically judge the value of this course against its ability to achieve the goal of facilitating your ability to take a historical "perspective" in understanding psychology as a multi-faceted enterprise.

Admittedly, there are a number of perspectives one may take in understanding the history of any modern discipline. In tracing the contributions of various men and women to the establishment of modern psychology, two approaches have commonly been used: the *zeitgeist* (socio-cultural factors) and the "*great scholar*" perspectives. This course makes use of both of these perspectives as it traces the development of psychology as a modern scientific discipline from its beginning in 19th century philosophy and physiology. A consideration of the dominant worldviews of natural and human science is also made, providing a background context out of which one can view the emergence of the major schools of 19th century psychology. Our look at this emergence examines the arrival and development of the *schools* of Consciousness or Mentalism (Wundt, Kulpe & Titchener), Unconscious Minds (Fechner, Freud & Jung), Functional Pragmatism (Darwin, James & Dewey), and the subsequent development of the streams of academic and applied psychology. This course will trace the contributions of several "great scholars" but will also focus on the cultural settings of 19th and 20th century Germany, Britain, Canada, and the United States as part of a "zeitgeist approach." Special attention will be paid to the history of psychology in Canada prior to (and following) its formal beginning as the Canadian Psychological Association in 1939. This account will accompany an examination of the emergence of various psychological practices against the cultural settings in which they have been found.

It is also expected that the course will provide students with some understanding of the development and tremendous growth of diversity that is easily seen in the psychological practices of today. In considering one's role in the history of psychology, it is often meaningful to talk about Erik Erikson's notion of identity. Erikson was keenly interested in constructing psycho-histories of famous people by revealing their struggles with ideologies as the guiding ideals (guide-posts) of their unfolding identities. The issue of psychology being in a state of identity crisis is repeatedly acknowledged throughout the history of psychology. By encouraging you to think about these historical theories of psychology as ideologies of psychology, it should be possible for you to consider the acceptance of a theoretical perspective in psychology as involving the formation of one's identity. In so far as this course offers a diversity of approaches to psychology, it is expected that you will have an abundance of ideologies of psychology from which to develop your future identity as a professional or lay psychologist.

Against this backdrop, you will be exposed to historical accounts of the psychological sub-fields of biological, clinical, cognitive, educational, evolutionary, humanistic, gestalt, psychoanalytical, testing, and more. You will be encouraged to think about these sub-fields as possible ideologies for the future of psychological practice in Canada. Remember that it is through you people and the practices that you follow that the history and identity of psychology as a scientific discipline will continue to develop and unfold.

With this general perspective in mind the class activities and the term paper topics have evolved as parts of this course where each of you are encouraged to take an active role in the historical construction of the subject of psychology.

Term Papers:

It is expected that each student will take a historical perspective in writing a term paper on some issue or person from the history of

psychology*. The papers are to be no longer than 10 pages typed double space (12 point font only) in the standard APA style. If you are not familiar with this style of referencing and paper writing please take a look at the [APA publication manual](#) (4th edition). In taking a historical perspective there are several alternatives that you may wish to pursue. (4th edition). In taking a historical perspective there are several alternatives that you may wish to pursue.

* Note: It is strongly suggested, but not mandatory that you consider looking into the history of psychology in Canada, or of a Canadian Psychologist, issue, or perspective.

Topics:

1) Choose a person in the history of psychology and provide an account of the development and/or the influences on/of this person's work. In doing so, you may wish to consider the relationships between this person and his or her family, community, society or culture. You also may wish to consider the relationships between this person as a teacher (or as a student) where the student is usually either seen developing the teacher's perspective in one direction or found rebelling from it. Related to this approach is the "schools" approach where one examines the emergence, development, or influence of a "school" or ideology of psychology upon a specific person, another "school", the discipline in general, or society in some important way.

2) Choose a seminal issue or idea from the history of psychology and carefully examine two or more perspectives on that issue. In taking this approach it is important, as in the first approach, to consider the ideas as they have changed (or been maintained) by different people at different times (or in different places). For example, the "mind-body" problem is one such issue that plays a central role in the development of most ideologies of psychology. As such, one may consider how people have

resolved this issue over time or how someone has resolved it in response to another person's resolution.

Equally well suited to this approach is an investigation of other issues of the philosophy of science as they apply to psychology. Examples of these are the goals or "ethical" values of some pair of ideologies of psychology, the epistemologies / "knowledge claims" made by psychologists, or the forms of logic that are used. Other topics include an evaluation of psychological practice or a general account and critique of an entire philosophy of science that is a foundation for a collection of ideologies of psychology. This approach is frequently associated with the "comparison and contrast" approach that focuses on making a meaningful discussion of the similarities and differences between two or more perspectives on some issue. The historical approach is similar, but not exactly the same as this approach, because historical/contextual considerations are not a necessary part of the comparison and contrast approach.

Basically, **the bottom line is**, *choose a topic in the history of the practice of psychology (in Canada) about which you will provide one or another kind of historical account.* That means you will provide an account of some psychological issue(s) or person(s) in a manner that explicitly recognizes the role of history in regard to your topic.

Good Papers:

Most people want to get good marks even if they don't expect an "A+" on their papers. It is a good idea, however, to point out a few things regarding the creation a good paper. Typically, good papers are those that take a critical perspective on the topic that they are presenting. To be critical does not mean that you simply have to be negative and try to put down some theory or perspective. Being critical involves the careful examination and explanation of issues pertaining to the creation and development of theories or ideologies of psychology. Consider going to original sources in providing a critical examination of some ideas, and try to provide your reader with an understanding or explanation of the

central issue of the perspective that you are examining. This will likely mean that you will have to go to UVic and spend some time in the MacPherson Library.

Make use of your own thoughts and concerns when choosing a topic, and also don't be afraid to rely on your own reasoning and judgment. It is a good idea, however, to talk to classmates and your teachers about any ideas you might have as you think them through and get better at expressing such thoughts. Additionally, the papers that generally receive good marks are those which are well thought out, well organized, and clearly presented. If you have the greatest ideas in the world they are not worth much if you cannot express them clearly. Take the time to think about the topic you choose and start thinking about it soon.

With respect to your understanding of the grading expectations of the instructor--who will be marking the papers-- you will be asked to hand in a one page outline of your paper topic by week 5 of the semester in order to facilitate clear communication between the instructor and students. The term paper will be due at the end of the 12th week of classes and it is expected that you will staple your outline (that your instructor returned to you with comments on it) to the back of your term paper.

Inclass Activities:

In general, a portion of the class time will be spent as a tutorial session. During this time there will be small group discussions about the study questions and key concepts that coincide with each lecture. There will also be some seminar time dedicated to the development of your term papers. Students will be encouraged to discuss the selection of term paper topics with each other. After all, it is your history so you will decide which approach to take in the production of the historical accounts that you will construct in your papers.

Students are also encouraged to consider contributing their term papers to *Psybernetika*, a journal that may publish them in a special issue on the

history of psychology in Canada. Through these activities it is hoped that you will become actively engaged in the production and understanding of the history of psychology in Canada. To help you in starting, you can look at the work of previous classes whose reports were published in *Psybernetika*, 1 (3), Winter 1995 and *Psybernetika*, 2 (2) Summer 1996, (*Psybernetika*, 3 (1) Spring 1997) at "<http://www.sfu.ca/~wwwpsyb/>".

One option for searching for information on a Canadian psychologist or issue from Canadian Psychology is to consult one or more of the [Three principal publications](#) of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). By tracing the references to articles that you are interested in, you can examine the intellectual histories of contemporary Canadian psychologists. Additionally, there are a few good sources on historical information of Canadian psychology that will be on reserve at the Bennett Library.

Exams:

There will be a midterm and a final exam that will be written on webCT. These will include a short section of multiple choice questions along with two or three short essays and a collection of short definitions of key concept terms that are provided with the weekly study questions. On each exam there will be three or four concepts that you will have to a definition and also discuss the significance of it for the history of psychology.

WebCT Discussions:

While class time will be spent on the study questions, it is also expected that further discussions will occur outside of class through the WebCT discussion module. At times you will be directed to discuss the questions or other in-class activities on-line.

Grading:

The Grading will be done following Camosun Standards as seen below:

A+ 95 - 100

B 75 - 79

D 50 - 59

A 90 - 94

B- 70 - 74

F 0 - 49

A- 85 - 89

C+ 65 - 69

I = Incomplete*

B+ 80 - 84

C 60 - 64

*(If the missing work is not completed within 6 weeks from the semester end, the grade will become F).

The Marks will be distributed among the course across the following:

In-class Activities		10 %
Class Participation / Attendance		5 %
WebCT discussion postings		10 %
Exams		
	Midterm	20 %
	Final	30 %
Term Paper		25 %
		100%

Text and Readings: [Leahey, T.H. \(2001\). *A history of modern psychology \(3rd edition\)*, Englewood-cliffs: Prentice Hall.](#)

In general, this course addresses scholars through chronological order, however they are also tied to various social contexts. As such, the chapters in the book will not be read in strict numerical order but in an order that follows the lecture topics.

As outlined in the course syllabus, for the two sections on the history of psychology in Canada, there are a few chapters of supplemental readings to accompany the course readings from the text. See the [course syllabus](#) for a list of readings and dates of assignments.

Optional and Supplemental Readings (*Available from Camosun Library - others through interlibrary loan).

Armour L. & Trott E. A. (1981). *The faces of reason*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Bernstein, R.J. (1988). *Beyond objectivism and relativism: Science, hermeneutics and praxis*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Brennan, J.F. (1986). *History and systems of psychology*. Englewood-cliffs: Prentice-Hall.

*Boring E. G. (1950). *A history of experimental psychology*. Englewood-cliffs: Prentice-Hall.

Danziger, K. (1990). *Constructing the subject: Historical origins of psychological research*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.

Edwards, P. (Ed.) (1967). *Encyclopedia of philosophy (Vols. 1-8)*. New York: The Free Press. (This collection is found in the 5th floor Reference Section of Bennett library)

Harre, R. (1986). *The philosophies of science: An introductory survey*. New York: Oxford University Press.

*Hergenhahn, B.R. (1986). *An introduction to the history of psychology*. Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth.

*Jones, W.T. (1975). *A history of western philosophy (vols. I-IV)*. San Diego: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.

*Leahey, T.H. (1992). *A history of psychology: Main currents in psychological thought*. New York: Prentice-Hall.

McKillop, A.B. (1979). *A disciplined intelligence: Critical inquiry and Canadian thought in the Victorian era*. Montreal: McGill-Queens university Press.

McKillop, A.B. (1994). *Matters of mind: The university in Ontario, 1791-1951*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Messer, S.B., Sass, L.A., & Woolfolk, R.L. (Eds.) (1988). *Hermeneutics and psychological theory: Interpretive perspectives on personality, psychotherapy and psychopathology*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Robinson, D.N. (1986). *An intellectual history of psychology*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Shotter, J. (1993). *Cultural politics of everyday life: Social constructionism, rhetoric and knowing of the third kind*. Buckingham: Open University Press..

Schultz, D.A. & Schultz, S.F. (1987). *A history of modern psychology*. 4th Edition. N.Y.: Harcourt, Brace, Janovitch.

Watson, R.I. (1978). *The great psychologists*. New York: J.B. Lippincott

Wertheimer, M. (1970). *A brief history of Psychology*. New York: Holt.

*Wright, M.J. & Myers, C.R. (1982). *History of Academic Psychology in Canada*. Toronto: Hogrefe.
