



Department of Psychology

History of Psychological Thought

Psychology 305 - Fall 2007

Instructor:	Dr. Hank Stam	Lecture Location:	Admin 167
Phone:	220-5683	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 13:00
Email:	stam@ucalgary.ca	Office Hours:	W 14:00
Office:	Admin 251C		(or by apptmnt)

Overview: This course is a history of psychological thought concentrated in the North Atlantic world (Europe and North America). Although it is not directly a history of the *discipline* of psychology per sé, our aim is to conclude the course by examining the conduct and structure of psychology for what it claims about human nature. It is not so much a search for *antecedents* and *forerunners* that will occupy us because a search for antecedents already assumes that what we know in the present is the best possible knowledge. This assumption leads us to treat the past as a mere prologue to some better understanding that is manifested in present-day knowledge. In that case the study of the past would largely be concerned with trivia or remain of antiquarian interest.

This course is concerned instead with thinkers, scholars, scientists and social movements and how these interweave to produce unique positions on the problems of (a) the nature of the *universe*, (b) the nature of *life*, and in particular (c) the nature of the *human*. In moving to the twentieth-century we will want to concern ourselves with the relationship between theories of human nature and changing *social institutions* as the latter are important sources and places for trying to understand what theorists thought was of value in understanding mind and what constituted conduct. We will limit ourselves to what has traditionally been called “western” thought beginning with the pre-Socratics and ending with twentieth-century psychologists. We will cover only *some* of the important developments along the way, namely those that are viewed as constituting major turning points for the understanding of human nature. There is much that will not be covered by this course but I will try to give what we do cover a certain coherence.

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives: This course is directly relevant to the core competencies. We will be engaged in addressing historical perspectives and theoretical frameworks that form the foundations of critical and creative thinking in the discipline and that are focused on the analysis of problems at a foundational level. Much of this will require exposure to, and mastery of, abstract reasoning. The tests and assignment you will complete are designed to require you to engage in effective communication strategies and will require that you gather and organize information effectively. It is expected that this course will generate insight into how knowledge is produced, how psychological knowledge came into existence as a separate category of knowing, and it will enhance your interpretive and assessment skills with respect to the evaluation of knowledge claims.

Text:

T. H. Leahey (2004). A History of Psychology (6th edition). Prentice Hall.

Course Notes: All class notes will be posted on Blackboard for which you are automatically registered if you are registered in this class. You can find our 305 notes by logging into blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>.

Requirements:

Your total grade will be based on three midterm exams (written) and a final take-home exam. These are

1. Midterm I: Wednesday, October 3 (20%)
2. Midterm II: Monday, October 29 (22%)
3. Midterm III: Friday, November 23 (23%)

These midterms will consist of written responses to short answer or essay-style questions on the material covered immediately prior to the test. The first is not worth quite so much in order to give you some experience with the nature of these tests.

4. Three pop-quizzes: can come at any time and will be based strictly on the text book. They will take only a few minutes to write, consist of a few questions with answers of a few words. Hence to score any points on these quizzes you need to read ahead. Total value, 5% each. Only the **best one** of the three will count. No make-up possible.

4. Final Exam: A two-hour registrar scheduled final exam will be given during the Final Exam period from December 10-19 (30%).

All midterms and exams will consist of questions requiring written responses designed to evaluate your ability to synthesize and critically evaluate the material.

Grading System:

The final percentage obtained in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

Lecture Schedule:

Week of	Topic	Chapter
Sept. 10	What is history? And the history of science?	Lecture notes
Sept. 17	The Hellenistic and Roman Worlds	Chapter 2
Sept. 24	Plato and Aristotle	Chapter 2
Oct. 1	The Middle Ages and Renaissance	Chapter 3
Midterm I: Wednesday, October 3		
Oct. 8	The Scientific Revolution and Empiricism	Chapters 4 & 5
No class Monday, October 8, Thanksgiving		
Oct. 15	The Seeds of Psychology - the 19th-century	Chapter 6
Oct. 22	Wilhelm Wundt and German Origins	Chapter 7
Oct. 29	The Unconscious and Evolution	Chapters 8 & 9
Midterm II: Monday, October 29		
Nov. 5	Early American Psychology	Chapter 10
Nov. 12	Behaviorism	Chapter 11
No class Monday, Nov. 12 - Reading Days		
Nov. 19	Behaviorism	Chapter 11
Nov. 26	Applied Psychology	Chapter 12
Midterm III: Friday, November 23		
Dec. 3	The Demise of Behaviorism and the Rise of Cognitivism	Chapter 13

Final exam scheduled by Registrar

An important note on classroom etiquette: Our classroom is relatively noisy so please try come to class on time and please do not leave during class unless you absolutely must. It can be very distracting for others in the class – we all thank you for your consideration. And of course, don't forget those cellphones.....

Reappraisal of Grades

A student seeking reappraisal of graded tests, exams, lab assignments, etc., must discuss their work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified of the mark or of the work having been returned to the class. In accord with Faculty regulations, the whole assignment or exam will be re-marked, and the mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. No reappraisal is permitted after the fifteen-day period.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of

Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. Note that the lecturer must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 21, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is December 7, 2007.

A copy of this course outline may be viewed on the Internet at the following web address:
<http://www.psychology.ucalgary.ca/students/courses/>