



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Department of Psychology

Psychology 305 (L60) – History of Psychological Thought  
Summer 2009

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Instructor:	Dane Burns	Lecture Location:	A 167
Phone:	(403) 220-4972	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 14:00-16:45
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Office Hours:	TR 12:00 - 1:00		

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### Course Description and Goals

This course is a history of psychological thought and concentrates on the North Atlantic world (Europe and North America). Although it is not directly a history of the discipline of psychology, our aim is to conclude the course by examining the emergence and structure of the discipline of psychology. History of psychology in this context is not a search for antecedents and forerunners of psychology 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. Instead we will want to know how thinking about human nature involves ways of living and hence see how history reveals how the practical everyday conduct of life is tied up with our knowledge of ourselves.

This course is concerned 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 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 level of 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.

### **Prerequisites**

None.

### **Required Text**

T. H. Leahey (2004). *A History of Psychology* (6th edition). Prentice Hall. (Bookstore, \$130 new or \$97 used.)

### **Evaluation**

Your total grade will be based on three midterm exams (written), three pop-quizzes, and a final registrar scheduled exam.

1. Midterm I: Tuesday, July 14 (15% of final grade)
2. Midterm II: Tuesday, July 28 (25% of final grade)
3. Midterm III: Thursday, August 6 (25% of final grade)

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 test is worth less to give you some experience with the nature of these tests. Please do not ask me to discount earlier tests in favor of later ones as this will not be done. The Midterms will be written in the first hour of the class. The remaining time will be devoted to lectures.

4. Best of your three pop-quizzes (5% of final grade): These quizzes can come at any time and will be based strictly on the textbook. 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. Only the best one of the three will count. No make-up possible.

5. Final Exam (30% of final grade): A two-hour registrar scheduled final exam will be given during the Final Exam period from Aug 17-19.

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

### **Grading 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%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter
July 2	What is history? What is the history of science? & the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds	Chapter 2
July 6	Last day for registration and changes to registration. No fee refunds after today.	
July 7	Plato and Aristotle	Chapter 2
July 9	The Middle Ages and Renaissance	Chapter 3
July 14	The Scientific Revolution and Consciousness	Chapter 4
July 16	Enlightenment and the Science of Human Nature	Chapter 5
July 21	The 19th Century	Chapter 6
July 23	Wilhelm Wundt and German Origins of Psychology	Chapter 7
July 28	Freud and the Unconscious	Chapter 8
July 30	Psychology of Adaptation	Chapter 9
Aug 3	Alberta Heritage Day. University closed. No lectures.	
Aug 4	Functionalism and Animal Psychology	Chapter 10
Aug 6	Behaviorism	Chapter 11
Aug 11	The Demise of Behaviorism and the Rise of Cognitivism	Chapter 12
Aug 13	Buffer/Wrap-up	
Aug 13	Last day to participate in research and allocate credits.	
Aug 14	Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	
Aug 17 - 19	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)	

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### 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 the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

#### Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

#### Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is April 16, 2009.

#### Student Organizations

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

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

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

#### Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.