

## PSYC 0010 HISTORY AND ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY

**Lectures:** Wednesdays, 10.30am-12.30pm  
LE7

Location:

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This course will begin by looking at how the modern discipline became an experimental, scientific subject and the assumptions enshrined in that enterprise. From there it will move on to examine some of the debates in the first half of the twentieth century which either forestalled or encouraged the use of mental concepts and the (re)emergence of cognitive psychology at mid-century. By taking this course, you get a better grasp of the contextual nature of the wide ranging subject matter. This will help you develop a perspective on psychology as a whole and make you better equipped to engage in future research in any part of it.

### **Course objectives**

1. To examine the philosophical and historical antecedents to the early subject matter of psychology's ensuing development
2. To examine issues in the history of psychology so that you will come to develop a better perspective on psychology as a whole

### **Tutorial objectives**

1. To facilitate learning through discussion among group members of issues related to the course
2. To facilitate a better understanding of the course text and related reading materials
3. To clarify questions related to the course project

### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to

1. Demonstrate understanding of the core philosophical and historical antecedents to the early subject matter of psychology's ensuing development
2. Critically examine issues and development of history of psychology so as to develop a better perspective on psychology as a whole
3. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the assumptions and biases regarding the study of the history of psychology

## Readings

The recommended textbook from which there will be selected chapters for study:  
Leahey, T.H. *A History of Modern Psychology* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Prentice-Hall)  
(available at bookstore)

Additional readings on a variety of issues will be distributed in the tutorials.

Some additional reference texts you might like to consult are:

Danziger, K. *Constructing the subject: Historical origins of psychology*. (Cambridge)

Danziger, K. *Naming the Mind: How Psychology found its Language* (Sage)

\*C. Murchison (Ed) *A history of psychology in autobiography 5 vols.*

[Vol. 1-4 on shelf, vol. 5 in Reserve section]

\*E.R. Hilgard (Ed) *American psychology in historical perspective*

[One copy on shelf and one in Reserve section]

\*T.H. Leahey *A history of psychology: main currents in psychological thought*

[4th edition in Reserve section 5th edition on shelf]

\*E.G. Boring *A history of experimental psychology*

[One copy on shelf and two in Reserve section]

*The encyclopaedia Britannica: a new survey of universal knowledge*

[24 volumes in Special collection section]

\*R.I. Watson *The great psychologists: a history of psychological thought* (5th ed.)

(Titles marked \* are on 2-hour reserve in the Reserve Reading room)

A useful set of web links to digital archives in the History of Psychology are the following:

Classics in the History of Psychology (<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca>)

William James archive ([www.des.emory.edu/mfp/james.html](http://www.des.emory.edu/mfp/james.html))

Directory of open access journals ([www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org))

Gestalt archive ([www.gestalttheory.net/archive](http://www.gestalttheory.net/archive))

F.C. Bartlett archive ([www-bartlett.sps.cam.ac.uk](http://www-bartlett.sps.cam.ac.uk))

The Mead Project (<http://spartan.ac.brocku.ca/%7Elward/>)

Biomed Central ([www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com))

Psychology Museum and Resource Centre

(<http://psychology.okstate.edu/museum/history/index.html>)

Women's Intellectual Contributions to the Study of Mind and Society  
(<http://www.websteruniv.edu/~woolfm/women.html>)

Women in Psychology (<http://psychology.okstate.edu/museum/women/cover2.html>)

History of Psychology archives  
(<http://www.muskingum.edu/~psych/psycweb/history.htm>)

Archives of the History of American Psychology  
(<http://www3.uakron.edu/ahap/news/news.phtml>)

### **Tutorials and term project**

There will be assigned readings each week. In addition, there will be *one term project*. You will be asked to select one topic from a list and explore its historical origins and the implication of its history for our current understanding. This will involve you doing some archival work in the library, tracking down sources, and compiling "data". The project will be written up as an individual report comprising about 3,000 words.

### **Plagiarism**

*A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism may also be reported to the Faculty with a view to disciplinary action.*

### **Examination(s)**

There will be ONE class test comprising MCQs and short form answers. This will be conducted in the second week following the Reading Week. Your examination in December will comprise MCQs, short forms and one essay.

### **Coursework Marks**

20% for participation (attendance and weekly contribution), 30% for the class test, and 50% for the written assignment. The Coursework (Cw) / Exam (Ex) ratio is 50: 50.

## COURSE OUTLINE (lectures)

Week	Content	Readings
1. (19/9)	Introduction. Why study the History of psychology? Different kinds of history. Kuhn's notion of 'paradigm'. Is psychology a paradigmatic science?	Leahey ch.1 <i>Webnotes1</i>
2. (26/9)	Theories of Mind; the standard view of Mind.	<i>Webnotes2</i>
3. (3/10)	The context for Wundt. Psycho-physiological precursors. The first psychological laboratory. Wundt's natural science and his <i>Geisteswissenschaften</i>	Leahey ch.3 (pp. 77-87) <i>Webnotes3</i>
4. (10/10)	Wundt's work and his repudiation. The European alternatives: Brentano, Külpe, Titchener.	Leahey ch.3 (pp. 87-97)
5. (17/10)	Gestalt psychology and its impact.	Leahey ch.3 "Gestalt Psychology In America"
6. (24/10)	The emergence of Functionalism. Gall's Phrenology Darwin's theory of Evolution. Alexander Bain. Herbert Spencer's evolutionary associationism.	Leahey ch.5 <i>Webnotes4</i>
<b>--- Reading week ---</b>		
7. (7/11)	James on thinking and the will.	<i>Webnotes5</i>
8. (14/11)	<b>--- Class test ---</b>	
9. (21/11)	Individual differences and the mental testing movement. Galton. James Mckeen Cattell and the early mental testers. Spearman and Binet. Conceptual implications of individual differences research.	Leahey ch.11 (pp. 331-40) <i>Webnotes6</i>
10-11. (28/11) (5/12)	The road to Behaviorism and its legacy. The institutional context: Functionalism vs. Comparative Psychology. John Watson, Thorndike, Hull, Tolman, Skinner Summing up	Leahey ch.8 <i>Webnotes8,9</i>

## COURSE OUTLINE (tutorials)

### Tutorials to be held on Mondays in Room CO701

Tutorial Week	Content	Required readings
1. (08/10)	The evolution of psychology; Kuhn's notion of "paradigm"	Chapter on history in any introductory textbook. Leahey ch. 1 <i>Webnotes1</i>
2. (15/10)	Wundt's project; The creation of the experimental laboratory	Leahey ch. 3 (pp. 77-87) <i>Webnotes3</i>
3. (22/10)	Külpe and Titchener: the "classical experimental period" and its break-up	Leahey ch. 3 (pp. 87-97)
<b>--- Reading Week ---</b>		
4. (05/11)	Gestalt psychology	Leahey ch. 3 M. Henle, " <i>Gestalt psychology in America</i> "
5. (12/11)	The emergence of Functionalism	Leahey ch. 5 <i>Webnotes4, 5</i> W. James, extract from 'Principles'
6.	<b>---- Discussion of term project (details to be announced) ----</b>	
7. (26/11)	History of mental testing	Leahey ch. 11 (pp. 331-340)
8. (03/12)	The rise of behaviourism	Leahey ch. 8 <i>Webnotes8</i>
9. (10/12)	Summing up & course evaluation	Danziger " <i>Does the history of Psychology have a future?</i> "