

PSY 3360 – Historical Perspectives on Psychology CGS 3325 – Minds and Machines since 1600

Spring semester 2013

Class meetings: Mon & Wed 10:00-11:15 AM, Green Hall 4.428

Course web page: <http://www.utdallas.edu/~assmann/PSY3360>

Instructor

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Course Web Page: <http://www.utdallas.edu/~assmann/PSY3360/>

Course Prerequisites:

PSY 2301 or CGS 2301.

Course description:

This course examines the historical and philosophical antecedents of our present conceptual frameworks in psychology. Beginning with the 17th century, when the foundations of our contemporary approaches were laid down, the course looks at the philosophical discussion of issues central to our work as psychologists: What is it that psychology studies? What counts as data? Is psychology ultimately reducible to biology, chemistry, and physics? Are humans mere deterministic machines, and do they possess a free will? Central issues in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of mind that are pursued into the 20th century include the synthesis of rationalism and empiricism, the mind/body problem, the problem of free will, and the scientific status of mental events. Twentieth century developments include ethology, behaviorism, Piaget, Freud, human information processing, connectionism, and artificial intelligence.

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline.
- 1.2 Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of psychology and their historical development.
- 1.3 Understand, apply, and analyze five selected content areas within psychology.
- 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by psychologists.
- 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (technical reports) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, persuading, evaluating).

Required textbook:

Raymond E. Fancher & Alexandra Rutherford 2012. *Pioneers of Psychology*. 4th edition. Norton & Co., Inc.

Course Requirements:

- **Quiz (10%).** Selected classes will include a brief, unannounced quiz covering material from preceding classes. Their purpose is to help prepare for the exams. No makeup quizzes are provided.
- **Midterm exam (25%).** Mixture of short-answer, medium-length, multiple choice, and essay questions covering material from the lectures and assigned reading. There will be a choice of questions to answer, and study questions will be provided. Makeup exams will be provided only in case of medical and family emergencies or related circumstances. In such cases you must notify the professor in advance of the scheduled time of the exam to avoid a grade of F.
- **Final exam (35%).** Same format and rules as the midterm exam.
- **Term paper draft introduction (10%).** One of the course requirements is to write a term paper based on one of the books from the list below. Read the book early in the semester, and begin to think about an aspect of the book that will serve as the focus for your paper. We will be happy to discuss ideas with you as you begin working on your paper. A draft introduction and topic outline will be due in class on **February 20**. The draft introduction will outline the aims and content of the paper, followed by a set of headers listing the main parts of the paper. The draft introduction should be 1-2 (typed, double-spaced) pages in length. An example will be posted on the course web page on the first day of classes.
- **Term paper (20%).** The term paper should be 7-8 double-spaced pages. It will develop from your reading of one of the recommended books below, and should relate some aspect of the book to something outside of the book, either in the course or in your more general experience. (**Note:** the paper should not be a "book report". It should focus on a single aspect, relating it to something outside the book. Do not summarize the whole book). An electronic version must be submitted to turnitin.com (a plagiarism detection service) by **April 17**. Details for online submission of the term paper will be provided in class and posted on the class web page. Late papers will result in lowering the paper grade by one notch (e.g. from A- to B+) per class period.

Pick one of the following:

- (1) Daniel Kahneman (2011). *Thinking: Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- (2) Frans de Waal (2010). *The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*. Broadway.
- (3) Oliver Sacks (2012). *Hallucinations*. Knopf.

Grading policy. Grading is based on the following criteria:

A+	96	B+	84	C+	70	D+	55
A	93	B	80	C	65	D	50
A-	89	B-	75	C-	60	F	<50

- **Attendance.** Class attendance is mandatory and will count toward the course grade (through quiz grades). If there are circumstances that lead to missed classes please see us to discuss the situation.
- **Research credits.** All core courses in Psychology and Cognitive Science include a research participation requirement. This requirement is described in the accompanying flier. The research credit sign-up system is online: <https://utdallas.sona-systems.com>. Use your UTD NetID to login and sign up for experiments. New experiments appear every few days throughout the semester; keep checking the schedule if you cannot find a suitable time slot.

Dates	Topics	Readings
Jan 14	General introduction	Fancher, Chapter 1
Jan 16	17 th century background	
Jan 21	Martin Luther King Day – no class	
Jan 23	European rationalism: Descartes	Fancher, Chapter 2
Jan 28	European rationalism: Spinoza and Leibniz	
Jan 30	British empiricism: Hobbes, Locke	
Feb 4	British empiricism: Berkeley, Hume	Fancher, Chapter 4
Feb 6	Kant's synthesis of rationalism & empiricism	
Feb 11	Helmholtz (I)	Fancher, Chapter 3
Feb 13	Helmholtz (II)	
Feb 18	Rise of psychophysics and neuroscience	Fancher, Chapter 5
Feb 20	Wundt and 19 th century experimental psychology	Term paper draft due ¹
Feb 25	Midterm review session	<i>Study guide posted online</i>
Feb 27	Midterm Exam	
Mar 4	Darwin and the theory of evolution	Fancher, Chapter 6
Mar 6	Galton and individual differences	Fancher, Chapter 7
Mar 10-16	Spring Break – no class	
Mar 18	Peirce and James	Fancher, Chapter 8
Mar 20	Russian reflex school; Pavlov	Fancher, Chapter 9
Mar 25	Behaviorism I: Watson	
Mar 27	Behaviorism II: Skinner	Fancher, Chapter 10 & 11
Apr 1	Freud; changing conceptions of mental illness	
Apr 3	Ethology and animal behavior	Fancher, Chapter 13
Apr 8	Piaget and development	
Apr 10	Rise and fall of radical behaviorism	Fancher, Chapter 12
Apr 15	Information processing and cognitive psychology	Fancher, Chapter 14
Apr 17	Impact of computers; Minds, machines, free will	Term paper due ¹
Apr 22	Approaches to the study of language	
Apr 24	Developments in cognition and neuroscience	Fancher, Chapter 15
Apr 29	Recent developments	
May 1	Last class: final exam review session	<i>Study guide posted online</i>
Fri May 10	Final exam: ** FRIDAY MAY 10 – 8:00-10:45 AM **	

¹ Late papers will lower the paper grade by one notch per class period (that is, from A to A-, or from A- to B+).

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent").

Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.