

Course Syllabus

Course Information

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

Spring semester 2015

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

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

Contact Information

Professor

Dr. Peter Assmann

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Office Hours

Wednesday 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

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Office Hours

Monday 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

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/Outcomes

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 Textbooks and Materials

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

Supplementary Books (pick one of three as the basis for the term paper)

- (1) Daniel Kahneman (2011). *Thinking: Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- (2) Christine Kenneally (2014). *Invisible History of the Human Race: How DNA and History Shape Our Identities and Our Futures*. Viking Press.
- (3) Evan Thompson (2014). *Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy*. Columbia University Press.

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 on **Wed. Feb. 18**. 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 (via eLearning) to turnitin.com (a plagiarism detection service) by **Wed. April 15**. 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.

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

Course Policies

Make-up exams

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.

Late Work

Penalty of one letter grade notch per class period the term paper is late. This policy ensures fairness to students who turn their paper in on time and do not have the advantage of extra time to improve its quality.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory and will count toward the course grade (through quiz grades). There are two reasons for this: (1) each lecture builds on materials covered in previous lectures; (2) exam questions are based both on lecture materials and the textbook. 1-2 missed quizzes is considered acceptable; we will omit the lowest quiz grades. No makeup quizzes will be given.

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.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Dates	Topics	Readings
Jan 12	General introduction	Fancher, Chapter 1
Jan 14	17 th century background	
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Day – no class	
Jan 21	European rationalism: Descartes	Fancher, Chapter 2
Jan 26	European rationalism: Spinoza and Leibniz	
Jan 28	British empiricism: Hobbes, Locke	
Feb 2	British empiricism: Berkeley, Hume	Fancher, Chapter 4
Feb 4	Kant's synthesis of rationalism & empiricism	
Feb 9	Helmholtz (I)	Fancher, Chapter 3
Feb 11	Helmholtz (II)	Fancher, Chapter 5
Feb 16	Rise of psychophysics and neuroscience	<i>Study guide posted online</i>
Feb 18	Wundt and 19 th century experimental psychology	Term paper draft due¹
Feb 23	Darwin and the theory of evolution	Fancher, Chapter 6
Feb 25	Midterm review session	
Mar 2	Midterm Exam	
Mar 4	Galton and individual differences	Fancher, Chapter 7
Mar 9	Peirce & James	
Mar 11	Russian reflex school; Pavlov	Fancher, Chapter 8

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+).

Mar 16-21	Spring Break – no class	
Mar 23	Behaviorism I: Watson	Fancher, Chapter 9
Mar 25	Behaviorism II: Skinner	Fancher, Chapter 10 & 11
Mar 30	Freud; changing conceptions of mental illness	
Apr 1	Ethology and animal behavior	Fancher, Chapter 13
Apr 6	Piaget and development	
Apr 8	Rise and fall of radical behaviorism	Fancher, Chapter 12
Apr 13	Information processing and cognitive psychology	Fancher, Chapter 14
Apr 15	Impact of computers; Minds, machines, free will	Term paper due¹
Apr 20	Approaches to the study of language	
Apr 22	Developments in cognition and neuroscience	Fancher, Chapter 15
Apr 27	Recent developments	<i>Study guide posted online</i>
Apr 29	Last class: final exam review session	
	Final exam: Monday May 11, 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM	

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.