

PSY 3360 – Historical Perspectives on Psychology

CGS 3325 – Minds and Machines since 1600

Summer semester 2015

Class meetings: Thursdays 6:00-9:50 PM, Green Hall 4.428

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

Instructor

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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:

R. E. Fancher & A. Rutherford 2012. *Pioneers of Psychology*. 4th edition. © 2012 W. W. 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 (30%).** 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 (40%).** Same format and rules as the midterm exam.
- **Term paper (20%).** There will be a term paper of 7-8 (typed, double-spaced) pages. The paper should grow out of 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. Choose one of the books from the list, read it 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. (**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). The term paper will be submitted through E-Learning to turnitin.com (a plagiarism detection service) by **July 23**. Details for submission of the term paper will be provided in class and posted on the class web page. Late papers will lower the paper grade by one letter grade per class period (that is, from A to B, or from B to C).

Pick one of the following:

- (1) Daniel Kahneman (2011). *Thinking: Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- (2) Paul Bloom (2014). *Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil*. Crown.
- (3) Sarah Blaffer Hrdy. (2011). *Mothers and Others: The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual Understanding*. Belknap Press.

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
Thu May 28	Descartes and the foundations of psychology	Fancher, Chapter 1
Thu June 4	Rationalism and empiricism	Fancher, Chapter 2
Thu June 11	Origins of neuroscience	Fancher, Chapter 3
Thu June 18	Origins of psychophysics	Fancher, Chapter 4-5
Thu June 25	Midterm exam	
Thu July 2	19th century experimental psychology	
Thu July 9	Darwin, Galton, and individual differences	Fancher, Chapter 6-7
Thu July 16	James and Pavlov	Fancher, Chapter 8
Thu July 23	Behaviorism Term paper due ¹	Fancher, Chapter 9
Thu July 30	Freud and psychoanalysis.	Fancher, Chapter 10-11
Thu Aug 6	Language, ethology, Piaget and development	Fancher, Chapter 13-14
Fri Aug 7	Final exam 8:00 - 10:45 PM	

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

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

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.