

Syllabus for History of Psychology

Spring 2015

Psychology 470: 01

TTH 3:20 – 4:40 pm Tillett 257

January 20 – April 30

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Office: 227 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus

Office hours: Monday afternoons, 2 - 4 pm, AND Tuesday mornings 11 am – 12noon. I am also available at other times by appointment

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Read this syllabus all the way to the end. It contains important information. On the first day of class, please ask questions about anything you do not understand. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information in the syllabus. A term paper is required, and is due Thursday, April 21.

This course, this semester, does not have a traditional text book. In the first weeks of the course, I will cover the pre-19th Century background of psychology. After that, we will be focusing on the work and legacy of William James. You are expected to read multiple chapters from two classic works by William James: *Principles of Psychology* (1890) and *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902). Both works are out of copyright, but still in print. Both are available as extremely inexpensive ebooks. Most of the text of both is also available on the internet. In addition, you will be assigned readings from Darwin, Huxley, and contemporary journals.

You will learn and retain the most information, and benefit from it, if you do assigned readings before coming to class and actively participate in class discussions.

Objectives of the course

1. Students will develop an understanding of the historical and philosophical antecedents and contexts of psychology.
2. Students will be able to describe the development of psychology as a scientific discipline.
3. Students will be able to characterize major relationships between developments in psychology and other disciplines, particularly philosophy, biology, the other social sciences, and mathematics.
4. Students will develop skills in reading and analysis of primary source material.

5. Students will investigate a topic appropriate to the content of the course, find and read primary source material and trace the history of that topic. Students will prepare a paper in APA format summarizing their findings.

Required readings: A number of historical works and specific papers will be assigned as course reading associated with particular topics. If these are not available on the PsychClassics website <http://psychclassics.asu.edu/>, these documents will be posted on Sakai in the Resources section, in a clearly labeled folder.

On-line quizzes: There will be periodic online quizzes to help you review material. These are NOT part of your grade but will help your grade if you complete them and even review them.

On-line reviews before exams: Before the midterm and the final exam, review exams will be posted on the Sakai site. The reviews are NOT required, though they will help you prepare for the exams. Scores on these reviews will not affect your grade.

TERM PAPER

A 10 page APA format term paper is REQUIRED. *“Required” means that if you do not turn in a paper, you will not receive a passing grade in the course.*

You have alternatives for the focus of your paper:

- 1) You may use primary sources to trace the **historical development** of an idea, important in psychology discussed in one of James’ books (e.g., free will, memory, attention, happiness, individual differences, inherited versus experiential contributions to behavior, the nature and role of consciousness) over an extended period (somewhere between 50 and 3,000 years). You should identify and read primary sources and secondary sources related to the topic and relate the topic to a broader context within psychology.
- 2) You may focus on the work and career of a retired or deceased former member of the Rutgers University Psychology Department, tracing their professional history, tracing their “psychology family tree”, describing their graduate education and research, tying your findings to broader themes in the history of psychology. The following site will be helpful: <http://psych.rutgers.edu/history-of-psychology>. The Rutgers library will be essential.
- 3) You may focus on the history of a public policy issue (e.g. the death penalty for adolescents, DSM classification of homosexuality, same sex marriage, child custody and adoption rights for same sex parents, intelligence testing and special education classification, the efficacy of torture, the ethics of psychologists advising on torture, “gay conversion therapy”) and the role individual psychologists and institutional psychology (e.g. the APA, APS, SIOP, Psychonomic Society, etc.) played in shaping debates and resolution of issues.

In short, your paper must concern BOTH history and psychology and cover a time period of at least 50 years. It must rely mostly on primary sources (original writings) with some reliance on secondary sources (topical or historical reviews) and essentially no reliance on text books.

Papers that do not conform to the requirements, poorly researched papers, papers with improper/inadequate citations or with plagiarized passages may receive **0** points. For example, a paper about employment testing would not meet the requirements UNLESS it traced the history of description, understanding, and controversies surrounding employment testing, over at least the required 50 year period... and did this using primary sources (original papers, court decisions) as well as secondary sources (which may be books or papers or journalistic accounts). Text books are not acceptable sources for research papers. A formal statement of your paper topic and an annotated bibliography are due on **Tuesday, March 8**. A useful guide to developing an annotated bibliography in APA style can be found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/>

Poorly written papers will lose points for the mechanics of writing. Papers that do not conform to APA style will lose points (up to 5)

Papers must be submitted electronically (through Sakai, which will upload the paper to Turnitin.com).

The final version of the paper is due before midnight on **Thursday, April 21**. Turnitin.com will stop accepting papers at midnight the following day. A 1-point penalty may be charged for every hour that a paper is late. Papers may be submitted at any time prior to the deadline. Turning your paper in early gives you time to correct any improper citations that Turnitin may identify.

The following URL contains an extensive explanation of the University's academic integrity policy.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Exams: There will be **two mid-term exams** and occasional quizzes. The first two exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The quizzes will be short answer essays. Quizzes will not be announced in advance. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. There will not be a final exam.

Learning and remembering the material covered in this course: Preview the readings before you begin any serious reading. Admittedly, for the historical works, this will be more difficult than previewing a text book. Take notes, in longhand! Recent research indicates that students who take notes on laptops are doing verbatim transcription (of lectures too), which tends to be automatic, less thoughtful, and leads to lower retention of material.

You will learn and retain much more if you attend class regularly and read all assigned material before class. You are also much more likely to be able to earn a few extra points for class participation.


Extra credit opportunities: There may be opportunities to participate in research for a limited amount of extra credit. These sometimes, but not always, arise.

Behavior in the classroom: As adults, students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to learning in a classroom environment. However, should a student's behavior be perceived by the instructor to be disruptive to

fellow students in the class, the instructor will ask the student to leave the classroom, and if this recurs, then the disruptive student may be judged unable to successfully complete the course with a passing grade.

Participation and attendance: I expect you to attend most classes and to participate in class discussions. At my discretion, I may award individual students up to 20 extra points for consistent well-informed participation in class. That amounts to a potential 5% increase in your point total.

The schedule below is subject to minor changes. The schedule of chapter and topic coverage may slip or accelerate, but the exam dates will not change.

Week	Dates	470:01 257 Tillett Hall Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:20 – 4:40 pm
1	T Jan 19 TH Jan 21	Introduction to the study of History of Psychology - methods, themes and cross-currents
2	T Jan 26 TH Jan 28	Classical antiquity through the Middle Ages. Read Aristotle selections
3	T Feb 2 TH Feb 4	The Renaissance through the Enlightenment (Descartes, Locke, Hume) Read Hume selections The “Modern Era”
4	T Feb 9 TH Feb 11	Nineteenth century developments: Weber, Fechner, Darwin, Huxley, Wundt, James, Ebbinghaus
5	T Feb 16 TH Feb 18	Brain and mind: Knowledge of the brain and developments in neuroscience Exam 1
6	T Feb 23 TH Feb 25	James (PoP, Chapters III, V, VI-VIII) James on Habits, Consciousness, Self, Attention, Memory, Thinking (PoP, Chapters IV, IX - VI)
7	T March 1 TH March 3	James’ essays on consciousness and free will NO CLASS EPA (Eastern Psychological Association – (I have four students presenting research)
8	T March 8 TH March 10	Paper topics and annotated bibliography due. Start Volume II of James’ PoP Chapters XVII – XX (17 through 20)
9	T March 15 TH March 17	<i>James, PoP Chapters 21 – 23</i>  SPRING BREAK – No Classes <i>Last day to drop by withdrawal is March 21st!</i>
10	T March 22 TH March 24	James: PoP Chapters 24 – 25 Chapters 26 – 27, 28
11	T March 29 TH March 31	Exam 2 James: Varieties of Religious Experience
12	T April 5 TH April 7	VRE continued
13	T April 12 Th April 14	VRE continued Read: Duckworth & Gross; Baumeister
14	T April 19 TH April 21	Contemporary research on religious experience and behavior. Readings TBD THURSDAY: Papers due before midnight, 24 hour grace period – with penalties
15	T April 26 TH April 28	James and evolutionary psychology, positive psychology, [reading articles TBD]
16	NO FINAL	Final Exam: NO FINAL

Grading: Grades will be based on a point system with 400 possible points, as follows

	Each Worth Maximum of:	Total
2 Exams	100 points each	200 points
Term Paper	100 points	100 points
In class quizzes	100 points	100 points

Grading standards

A 360 points

B 320 points

C 260 points

D 220 points

F < 220 points

Cut-offs for “+” grades are determined at my discretion, but will be uniformly applied. These are generally the midpoints between the cutoffs for full letter grades (e.g., B+ would be 340 to 359). Do I curve? Sometimes I curve by lowering the point-total cutoffs for grades.

If you need a certain average graduate, to get into graduate or professional school, or just to keep your parents happy, attend ALL CLASSES, study actively, do all of the reading, turn your paper in on time, and review frequently **starting at the beginning of the term.**

Missed quizzes and exams: If you miss a exam, in general, you get a zero. Don’t miss exams. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you will have to produce documentation; with acceptable documentation, we can make arrangements for a makeup. Makeup exams will be of the same approximate difficulty as those administered to the class, but may be a different format and contain different questions.

Special arrangements: If you are entitled to extended testing time or other testing accommodations, provide me with the documentation from the Office of Disability Services, and I will work with them to arrange alternate administration of your quizzes, and midterms. DO THIS ASAP or you will not have an accommodation for the initial quizzes.