

History and Systems in Psychology

Rutgers University Course # 18:820:550:01
Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Spring, 2019

Room A340, Wednesdays, 1:45pm to 4:30pm

Instructor

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Purpose of Course

The primary purpose of this course is for students to explore the history of psychology generally, and of school and clinical psychology more specifically, including the discipline's pre-scientific origins (before 1879); its development into a distinct scientific discipline; and its later development as an applied profession.

A secondary purpose of this course is for students to gain familiarity with major schools of thought, or paradigms that have emerged and influenced trajectories of science, training, and practice in psychology. By learning about and discussing these items, it is hoped that students will gain a deeper professional identity, plus perspective on needs for professional growth.

Format of the Course

Class sessions 2 through 11 will focus primarily on critically reviewing assigned readings and using readings as a stimulus for discussion. As such, these sessions will involve a blend of lecture and discussion. Students should be prepared before each class by having read assigned material and arriving to class with questions or critical reactions about the content (see "Reaction Papers" under "Assignments & Grading" below).

Sessions 12, 13, 14, and 15 will consist of student presentations based on topics selected for their final papers (descriptions for the presentations and final paper are given below under "Assignments & Grading"). Each presentation will be about 35 minutes (including time for questions/discussion). Efforts will be made to group presentations for each class session by an overarching topic area.

Course Texts

Required: Benjamin, L.T. (2007). *A Brief history of modern psychology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell

Additional required readings have been scanned and uploaded on Sakai.

Suggested: Fishman, D. (1999). *The case for pragmatic psychology*. NYU Press.

Course Calendar, Topics, and Reading Assignments

Note: The dates and contents of class sessions are subject to change as determined by the instructor and the needs of the class.

Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment Due
1	1/30/19	Course introduction & rationale; primer for discussion around foundations of science		
2	2/6/19	Foundations of science, cont. Psychology: basic, applied, and otherwise	Grix (2002); Fishman, Ch. 1	Reaction #1
3	2/13/19	Philosophy & origins of psychology	Benjamin, Ch. 1 & 2; Altman & Rogoff (1987)	
4	2/20/19	Advent of scientific psychology and establishment of first laboratories in Europe and the United States	Benjamin, Ch. 3 & 4; Henriques (2016)	Reaction #2
5	2/27/19	Early schools of thought in psychology; structuralism & functionalism	Benjamin, Ch. 5	
6	3/6/19	Psychology as a clinical profession: first applications of psychology to helping	Benjamin, Ch. 6; Witmer (1907)	Reaction #3
7	3/13/19	Psychoanalysis	Benjamin, Ch. 7	Reaction #4
9	3/20/19	Spring Break – No Class		
8	3/27/19	Behaviorism & Cognitive Psychology	Benjamin, Ch. 8; Chronbach (1957)	Reaction #5; Presentation topics selected.
10	4/3/19	Branching school & clinical disciplines		
11	4/10/19	School psychology as a distinct specialty in professional psychology	Fagan (1992); Thorndike (1910)	Reaction #6
12	4/17/19	Presentations: What questions we ask and how we answer them	TBD – Read 2	Presentation*
13	4/24/19	Presentations: Psychological treatments, then and now	TBD – Read 2	Presentation*
14	5/1/19	Presentations: Geography, culture, and a more complete picture of psychology's past and present	TBD – Read 2	Presentation*
15	5/8/19	Presentations: Future directions in training, practice, and psychological research.	TBD – Read 2	Presentation*
16	5/15/19	Presentations? / Written Exam		Final Papers Due

*Each student presents on only one week between 4/17/19 and 5/8/19.

Assignments & Grading

Due Dates & Submission of Assignments

All assignments may be submitted to the course instructor by email (al928@gsapp.rutgers.edu). All assignments (Reaction Papers, Presentations) must be submitted by the Tuesday before the Wednesday class session on which they are due. The final paper is due on May 15th, 2019.

When submitting your assignment, please name the file as follows: [Last Name] - [Systems] - [Assignment]. For example, Reaction Paper 1 could be "Lekwa – Systems – Reaction Paper 1".

Assignments

Readings & Class Participation (15% of final grade). Each student is expected to do the reading for the week and to come to class prepared to discuss that reading.

Reaction Papers (n=6; 30% of final grade, or 5% each). Spread across class sessions 2 through 11, each student is required to write a set of 6 reaction papers (aim for 500 words each) before class on the readings for that week. In the paper, describe 1 or 2 items from the reading that (a) you found useful and persuasive, and why; (b) you disagreed with, and why; and (c) you found confusing, and why. Then, explain the rationale behind your reaction. The comments in the papers will form one of the bases of that day's class discussion. If there are multiple readings for a week, you need only react to one (although reactions to both/all are welcome too).

Presentations (15% of final grade). Each student will identify a topic of individual interest that has current implications for training, practice, or research in psychology, and will develop a presentation to outline the issue for the class. Presentations must:

1. Include a suggested reading assignment. At least one week prior to your presentation, please suggest a relevant reading assignment to accompany your presentation. A total of 4 or 5 presentations are scheduled each week, so students should review readings from *two* presentations for each session.
2. Include a description of the issue, how it relates to topics discussed in class, and your reason(s) for selecting it.
3. Include relevant historical and theoretical or empirical information, and develop a question or an argument (an assertion).

Each presentation should be 25 minutes long, including 10 minutes for discussion (35 minutes total). Each student's presentation will form the basis for her/his final paper (see below). Each student should have a topic identified by 3/27/19, and approved by the instructor. Topics for these presentations will be grouped, broadly, under four categories:

1. What questions we ask and how we answer them.
2. Psychological treatments, then and now.
3. Geography, culture, and a more complete picture of psychology's past and present
4. Future directions in training, practice, and psychological research.

Each topic area will be described in more detail during class. Note that these topics are only meant to help organize presentations and discussions, and can be modified by the group as we see fit. Because these presentations are to form the basis of students' final papers, students who present earlier in the semester have more time to incorporate feedback.

Final Paper (30% of final grade). The final paper will be based on the topic develop and presented in class (see above), and will be in the range of 10 to 12 double-spaced pages (page count excludes title page, references, etc.). As described above, papers must tie in to topics discussed in class or in assigned readings, and should incorporate references as necessary to support key ideas or strengthen rationale for the questions or assertions developed. Final papers must be sent to the instructor by 5/15/19.

Written Exam (10% of final grade). Students will complete a short, open-book written examination during the final class session on 5/15/19. This exam will cover main ideas from historical events and important schools of thought in psychology. The exam will be emailed or made accessible to students on the morning of 5/15/19.

Determination of Course Grades

Grading will follow Rutgers' criteria: 100-90 A; 89-85 B+; 84-80 B; 79-75 C+; 74-70 C; 69-60 D; 59-0 F

Course Expectations

- ✓ All assignments must be completed on time. Please note assignments received after due dates will receive grade reduction.
- ✓ Assignments can be submitted via email to the course instructor (al928@gsapp.rutgers.edu). Submission of hard copies in class is also acceptable.
- ✓ APA Style 6th Edition must be used with all written assignments. See link to most up to date APA version: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>.
- ✓ The following are not allowed during class time: side conversations, cell phones, e-mailing, or internet use of any kind unless directed by instructor.
- ✓ Students are expected to make arrangements with the instructor in the event of course absences to cover any missed content or activities.
- ✓ All students must review:
 1. Academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.
 2. The School Psychology Program Handbook. Professional and ethical conduct with GSAPP staff, faculty, fellow classmates, and school-based personnel are required at all times.

Course Evaluation

Rutgers University issues a survey that evaluates both the course and instructor. Students will complete this survey toward the end of the semester, and students' identities cannot be connected to their responses. The aggregated numerical results are public, and the numerical results and comments are shared with the instructor, and GSAPP. This survey will also be used by GSAPP to conduct a mid-point evaluation, the results of which are confidential to the instructor and school.

Disability Accommodation

Any student who believes that s/he may need an accommodation in this class due to a disability should contact the University Office of Disability Services, Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Suite A145, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8045, email address: dsoffice@rci.rutgers, Phone: (848) 445-6800, fax: (732) 445-3388, for a letter of accommodation. (Undergraduate New Brunswick students should contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities for their College.). Any student, who has already received a letter of accommodation, should contact the instructor privately to discuss implementation of his/her accommodations immediately.