

Psychology 405
History and Systems of Psychology
(MWF 10:00-10:50 ASH 2132)

Winter 2020

Instructor: John Adamopoulos

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Office Hours: M, W, F 11:00-11:50 and by appointment

Readings:

(1) Hergenhahn, B. R. (2014) (7th ed.). *An introduction to the history of psychology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage.

(2) Kuhn, T. S. (1962/1970). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (pp. 1-34 required; pp. 35-65 recommended). **On 2-hour reserve in the library.**

Course Description

This course will focus on the emergence of psychology as a formal scientific discipline. We will examine in detail the fundamental philosophical problems that form the core of the discipline, the theoretical systems and methodologies developed as answers to these problems, and the lives of the individuals who offered these answers. Thus, the course will contain historical, philosophical, and methodological elements. Basic knowledge of the theories and methods of psychology will be assumed.

Objectives

1. Familiarity with basic issues in the history and philosophy of science (e.g., How does scientific knowledge grow? What is the logic of scientific theory testing?)
2. Understanding of fundamental theoretical problems in psychology (e.g., ontological problem)
3. Knowledge of early psychological thought and scholarship
4. Understanding differences among major schools of thought in psychology

Requirements and Assessment

Your grade for this course will be based on three examinations, each counting for 25% of the final grade, and on a term paper, which will count for the remainder 25% of the grade. Each of the three exams will include fifty multiple choice items, and will be based on readings, lecture material, and class discussions. Class attendance and participation is, of course, strongly encouraged, and may make a difference in your final grade (especially in borderline cases). You will be expected to have done the assigned readings in advance of each class and to be prepared to participate in class discussions.

The term paper should be based on a topic of your choice that is of either historical or theoretical significance in psychology. You will be expected to do a substantial amount of library research in preparation for your paper. **You must clear the general concept and topic with me no later than February 28 by sending me an e-mail message with your basic ideas about the paper.** The paper must be typed (double-spaced) and **MUST** follow the style of the American Psychological Association (*APA Publication Manual*). You will find details of the style at <https://apastyle.apa.org/index>. Required **minimum** length is 10 pages, including title page (use the APA instructions for a student-paper title page), references, and any notes, tables, or figures you may have (**do not include an abstract**). The paper should be documented with significant references to the appropriate psychological literature in the general area you are exploring (**at least 8 peer-reviewed references, not including references to websites that are not peer-reviewed, college-level psychology texts—including the one for this class—or magazines**). **If the paper does not meet the minimum requirements described above, 25 points (out of 100) will be automatically deducted from the paper grade. The important points to consider regarding APA style include title, pagination, margins, headings, citations in text, use of quotations, and references and notes.**

The paper will be due in class on **April 6**. Late or e-mailed papers will not be accepted unless there exist compelling health or personal reasons. The same rule applies for missed examinations. Finally, students are encouraged to become familiar with the problem of plagiarism (see GVSU student handbook and class discussion).

Please note: If you would like me to look over your paper and give you feedback, then you have the option of resubmitting your paper for a final grade. To use this option, you must submit a final draft of your paper no later than **March 13**. I will assign a grade and provide feedback within approximately one week. You can then edit and modify your paper based on my comments, and resubmit it by the deadline for a final grade. If you do not resubmit a modified paper, then your original grade will stand.

The course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, TOPIC OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

1/6-1/24	Introduction to course: Chapter 1 and pages 1-34 in Kuhn.
1/20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess
1/27-2/7	The early years of psychology and the mind-body problem: Chapters 2 & 3; Chapter 4 (Descartes: pp. 111-117 only)
2/10	Exam 1
2/12-2/17	Empiricism & Associationism: Chapter 5
2/19-2/26	Structuralism: Chapter 9

2/28-3/11	Functionalism: Chapter 11
2/28	Deadline to clear your term paper topic (e-mail)
3/2-3/6	SPRING BREAK
3/13	Drafts of papers due for feedback (OPTIONAL)
3/13-3/18	Behaviorism: Chapters 12 & 13
3/20	Exam 2
3/23-3/27	Gestalt Psychology: Chapter 6 (Kant: pp. 180-185 only), Chapter 14
3/30-4/6	Psychoanalysis: Chapter 16
4/6	Papers due in class
4/8-4/17	The rise of modern psychology: Cognitivism: Chapters 19 & 20
4/20	Exam 3 (10:00-11:50 p.m.)