History and Systems of Psychology Psychology 465 Spring 2006

Instructor: Michael Ford **Office:** Robinson B209

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Description and Goals of the Course

Knowledge of the history of psychology is important in understanding the roots of the ideas in the field as well where psychology as a science fits in a broader context. In this course we will begin with the philosophical and physiological precursors, move into the development of psychology as a science, and then cover the major systems in the field. The main goals of the course are for you to gain a mastery of:

• the philosophical and physiological roots of psychology

- the major systems of thought in psychology and how they have impacted current theory, research, and practice
- how broader historical events and developments have impacted psychology's development
- the ways in which psychology has been applied to deal with practical issues such as schools, organizations, and the mentally ill, and how these applications have developed over time

Required Text

Thorne, B. M., & Henley, T. B. (2005). *Connections in the history and systems of psychology* (3rd ed.). New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Grading

There will be 3 tests that will be given in class over the course of the semester. These will each count for 25% of your overall grade. The exams will cover material both from the text and from lectures. Some of the material from lecture will not be in the text. Hence, if you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered as it will be represented on one of the exams. These exams will NOT be cumulative. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer. If some extreme event requires you to miss an exam (for example, parent undergoing extensive surgery), you must talk to me about missing the exam before the scheduled exam date. If you do not meet with me before missing the exam, no make-up exam will be given. The only exception will be for a medical or family emergency, and you must have documented proof of the emergency (for example, doctor's note). Furthermore, you must inform me of the emergency within one week of the exam date. If you miss an exam, the make-up exam will be all essay questions.

In addition, you will be required to write a 4-6 page paper. More detail will be given on this paper at a later date. This paper is due on April 18 and 5 points will be taken off for each day it is turned in late. This paper will count for the other 25% of your grade.

Participation in psychology research here at George Mason can be used for extra credit in this course. Each hour of participation counts for 1 extra point on your final grade, up to 3 total points. The maximum number of extra credit points you can get is 3.

Grading Scale:

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Grade		Grade		Grade	1 1 1	Grade	
	1 1 1		1 1 1		1 1 1		1 1 1
A+	97 – 100	B+	87 – 89.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D+	67 – 69.9
A	93 – 96.9	В	83 –86.9	C	73 - 76.9	D	63 - 66.9
A-	90 –92.9	B-	80 - 82.9	C-	70 - 72.9	D-	60 -62.9
	- - -		- - - - -		 	F	0 - 59.9

Class Schedule

	TOPIC	READING					
Jan 24	Introduction	Chapter 1					
Jan 26, 31	Ancient Greeks	Chapter 2					
February 2, 7	Modern Western Philosophical Influences	Chapter 4					
	LAST DAY TO ADD- February 7 (also last day to drop without tuition penalty)						
Feb 9, 14	Empiricism and Rationalism	Chapters 5 & 6					
Feb 16, 21	Physiological Precursors	Chapter 7					
Feb 23	Exam 1						
Feb 28	Darwinian Influence	Chapter 9					
LAST DAY TO DROP- February 24							
Mar 2	German Origins	Chapter 8					
Mar 7, 9	Structuralism	Chapter 8 (cont.)					
Mar 12-19	Mar 12-19 SPRING BREAK						
Mar 21, 23	Functionalism and Early American Psychology	Chapters 10 & 11					
Mar 28, 30, Apr 4	Behaviorism	Chapters 12 & 13					
	Exam 2						
Apr 6, 11	Gestalt Psychology	Chapter 14					
Apr 13, 18	Psychodynamic Theory (April 18 th paper due)	Chapter 15					
Apr 20, 25	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 18					
Apr 27	Neuroscience	Chapter 16					
May 2, 4	Applied Psychology	Chapter 17					
May 16	Exam 3 (7:30 – 10:15)						

^{*}Note that exam 3 will be designed to be the same length as exams 1 and 2 but you will be given until 10:15am (the end of the scheduled final exam time) to finish it.

Checking your email

Broad outlines will be distributed through email over the course of the semester referring to upcoming class sessions. These will not have specific information on them but will provide an "advanced organizer" for the material to be covered in upcoming classes. Be sure to check your email regularly for these.

Disability/Assistance:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

University Honor Code Statement:

The University has set out a clear Honor Code. The bottom line is: do not cheat, plagiarize, lie to me, or steal. If you have questions about any of this, please ask me.