

# History of Psychology

## Psychology 403

### Spring 2008

**Instructor:**

Ivan K. Ash, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Old Dominion University

**Course Information:**

Course Number: 24332  
Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 4:20-5:35 PM  
Location: MGB 128

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Office Hours: Tues 2-3 PM, Thurs 3-4 PM

**Course Description:**

This course presents a survey of the historical development of modern psychology. The major systems and their influences on contemporary American psychology are studied. Special focus is given to the development of psychology as a natural and experimental science. The goal of this course is to provide students with a throughout introduction to the philosophical underpinnings and theoretical progression of the study of the mind and behavior. Understanding of psychological theories, knowledge of important individuals and events, and critical thinking will be emphasized.

**Require Text:**

Hergenhahn, B. R. (2005). *An Introduction to the History of Psychology (5<sup>th</sup> Ed)*. Thomson/Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

**Course Structure:**

This course is designed to resemble the structure common to graduate seminar courses. Most topics will be covered over two class periods. On the first day of each topic, new topics and material will be introduced with by the instructor via lecture and in class activities. On the second day of each topic, we will further explore each topic via a class discussion which will be lead and moderated by the instructor. All aspects of this class will rely heavily on student participation. Therefore, it is vital to the success of the class that all students come to class having read the assigned reading and prepared to discuss and answer questions about the material. Please refer to the course schedule to see the list of topics, readings, and discussion dates.

**Readings:**

Completing all readings before each class is most important ingredient to success in this course. Lectures, class discussions, and class activities are all designed assuming that you have carefully read and studied the assigned reading. If you do not read the material before class, you will not be able to follow the lecture material, participate in class discussions, or contribute to the format of this course. The reading associated with each topic is listed on the course schedule. These chapters are expected to be completely read before

the day they are listed, and you are expected to come to class prepared with questions and ready to discuss the material. Be warned, there is a considerable amount of reading for each topic and the material in the textbook can be rather dense. You should schedule time in your week dedicated to studying the chapter and preparing for class. As in all classes, it is expected that the average student will have to commit 2 hours outside of class for every 1 hour in class in order to pass this course. That means that you should schedule at least 6 hours of time per week to prepare for this course.

### **Course Participation:**

Due to the structure of this course, student participation will be vital to the success of the course. Students are expected to make at least one significant contribution to each course topic. Many things may count as significant contributions, such as:

- Volunteering to answer a question from the instructor
- Asking a content related question in class
- Participating in a class debate
- Offering an example of a topic covered in class from recent news or events
- Making connections between topics or across domains
- Raising a discussion point
- Helping to clarify a point for a fellow student

The instructor will give you credit for every topic for which you make an active contribution. Total course participant will be reflected in your final grade.

### **Position/Reaction Papers:**

Position/reaction papers are designed to assure that everyone comes to the discussion classes prepared with issues and questions to discuss. Position/reaction papers should be short papers (no more than 1 pg single space) that present a topic that you would like to discuss from the chapter. Acceptable papers can take several forms. For example, your reaction paper may

- Present a modern argument for one side of a classic psychological debate
- Clarify a point that you think was unclear or confusing in the text
- Present reasons you agree or disagree with a theory or philosophy
- Relate a topic covered in the text to a modern event or area of psychological study
- Raise an important theoretical or historical issue that you believe was not covered in the text
- Comment on an aspect of the material that you found personally interesting and explain why

As you can see, these short papers can take a wide variety of forms. As long as it is well written and has the potential to spur discussion, then a paper topic is appropriate and will receive full credit.

Papers must be loaded on Blackboard by noon the Monday before each class discussion period. Class discussion periods are scheduled for the Tuesday of each week and are marked with an asterisk (\*) on the course schedule. The papers will be used to motivate class discussion and will be available to all the other students in class. Students are encouraged to look over their peers papers before each discussion class. No late papers will be accepted. Each paper will be graded on how well it meets the goals of the assignment and your performance across reaction papers will be reflected in your final grade.

## **Term Paper:**

The term paper assignment is designed to allow you to delve deeper into a historical period, influential person, theoretical movement, or psychological discipline that interests you. The term paper must focus on something or someone from the material covered in class. Acceptable term papers may take many forms. Some examples of acceptable papers structures are:

- A compare and contrast paper presenting evidence for two different theoretical views.
- A review paper that summarizes and critiques the work of a major figure in a field or historical movement.
- A review paper that summarize and critiques the empirical work in a field or theoretical movement of psychology
- A position paper, where you take a position on a historical debate and present evidence supporting you position.
- A paper that takes a historical person, theory, or experiment and investigates the impact on modern research

Papers are expected to be in APA style. All reference material should be acquired through your personal research. Acceptable references include, biographies/autobiographies, books or original research papers by historic researchers, primary source journal articles, review papers from scientific journals, historic textbooks, and papers written by historians and philosophers of science. In general, unacceptable references include: modern textbooks, websites, encyclopedias, and popular press publications (newspapers or magazines). However, there may be some specific cases where websites or popular press references may be appropriate. Topics and all references will have to be approved by the instructor. Final papers are expected to be no more that 10 pgs (double spaced, 12pt font) excluding title page, abstract, references, figures, and appendices. Please see the schedule for important paper due dates.

## **Paper peer-review:**

Drafts of your paper will be exchanged with peer review groups. Drafts will be graded at this time for progress and completeness, but not for content. Peer reviewers will read each paper in the group and provide feedback as to the quality, comprehensibility, scholarship, logic, and impact of the paper. Peer review comments will be graded for completeness, constructiveness, and timeliness. This exercise will help you develop your critical reading skills, give you valuable feedback on your paper, and expose the interesting topics chosen by your peers.

## **Exams:**

There will be two exams covering material from the lectures and readings. Exams will have multiple choice, True or False, and matching items. These tests will be designed to assess your mastery and retention of the course material. Make up exams will only be allowed under extreme extenuating circumstances. It is your responsibility to check for possible conflicts with exam dates and contact the professor immediately to make other arraignments.

## **Attendance:**

Attendance is expected. All due dates are final. No late work will be accepted. If you need to miss several classes for illness or family emergencies you should contact Student Services (683-3442) to document your absences. Student services can protect you by collecting supporting documents and informing professors of your situation.

**Assignments and Grades:**

**Term Paper (see Schedule for due dates)**

Paper Topic: 5 points  
 Reading List: 5 points  
 Paper Draft: 5 points  
 Peer Review: 5 points  
 Final Paper: 20 points.  
 Total: 40% of Final Grade

**Participation**

Position/reaction papers: 10 pts  
 Class participation: 10 pts  
 Total: 20% of Final Grade

**Exams**

Midterm: 20 points  
 Final: 20 points  
 Total: 40% of Final Grade

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

87%-89%: B+	93% or more: A	90%-92%: A-
77%-79%: C+	83%-86%: B	80%-82%: B-
67%-69%: D+	73%-76%: C	70%-72%: C-
<60%: F	63%-66%: D	60%-62%: D-

No incompletes will be given unless the situation complies with the University's policies.

**HONOR PLEDGE:**

The Honor Code of ODU shall be abided by. The Honor Pledge is as follows:

I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the honor code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Without exception, any student who breaks the university's code of academic integrity will receive an automatic "F" for the course and will be the subject of formal charges

**SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS:**

In compliance with PL94-142 and more recent federal legislation affirming the rights of disabled individuals, provisions will be made for students with special needs on an individual basis. The student must have been identified as "special needs" by the university and an appropriate letter(s) must be provided to the course instructor. Provision will be made based upon written guidelines from the university "special needs students" resource office. All students are expected to fulfill all course requirements. <http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/disabilityservices/>

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Term Paper
1	15-Jan	Welcome to Class & Overview		
	17-Jan	Introduction to History of Psychology	Chapter 1	
2	22-Jan	Early Greek Philosophers	Chapter 2	
	24-Jan	After Aristotle	Chapter 3	
3	*29-Jan	Early Philosophy Discussion		
	31-Jan	Modern Science & Philosophy	Chapter 4	
4	*5-Feb	Modern Science & Philosophy Discussion		
	7-Feb	Empiricism, Sensationalism, & Positivism	Chapter 5	
5	*12-Feb	E,S, & P Discussion		
	14-Feb	Rationalism & Existentialism	Chapters 6 & 7	topic due
6	*19-Feb	Rationalism Discussion		
	21-Feb	Rise of Experimental Psychology	Chapter 8	
7	*26-Feb	Experimental Psychology Discussion		
	28-Feb	Early Approaches to Psychology	Chapter 9	reading list due
8	*4-Mar	Early Approaches Discussion		
	6-Mar	Review, Paper Topic Discussion		
Spring Break	11-Mar	NO CLASS		
	13-Mar	NO CLASS		
<b>9</b>	<b>18-Mar</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>CH 1-9</b>	
	20-Mar	Mental Testing	Chapter 10	
10	*25-Mar	Mental Testing Discussion		
	27-Mar	Functionalism	Chapter 11	Paper Draft
11	*1-Apr	Functionalism Discussion		
	3-Apr	Behaviorism & Neobehaviorism	Chapter 12 & 13	
12	*8-Apr	Behaviorism Discussion		
	10-Apr	Gestalt Psychology	Chapter 14	Peer Review
13	*15-Apr	Gestalt Psychology Discussion		
	17-Apr	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 20	
14	*22-Apr	Cognitive Psychology Discussion		
	24-Apr	Contemporary Psychology	Chapter 21	
15	*29-Apr	Contemporary Psychology Discussion		Final Draft
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>8-May</b>	<b>Final Exam 3:45-6:45 PM</b>	<b>CH 10-14, CH 20, 21</b>	