overview

Psychology 4604 is a seminar on the history of psychology. Its objectives are both (a) to provide a historical context for understanding the achievements and potential for contemporary psychology and (b) to introduce students to the structure, nature, and content of historical inquiry in psychology and the behavioral sciences.

The history of psychology is a multidisciplinary area of inquiry that is of particular interest to scholars in history and philosophy as well as psychology. In this course, my primary focus will be on the history of psychology as a science rather than on the roots of the discipline in philosophy.

For students in the Wilkes Honors College, this course is required within the psychology concentration. Honors students should also sign up for the writing hour that runs in parallel with the history class (ISS 4932).

The course is typically offered every other year. The instructor is Dr. Kevin Lanning (lanning@fau.edu, WB 213, M 11-2 and W 2-5).

books


grades

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale, with points earned equally by (a) class participation [25 points possible], (b) midterm exams [25 each], and (d) final exam [25]. Exams will include multiple choice, short answers, and essays.

You can earn class participation points by attending class and by making contributions to discussion which indicate that you have thoughtfully studied the assignments in a timely fashion.

As course grades are based in part on classroom participation, regular attendance is effectively a course requirement. Absences may be excused due to illness or a medical emergency.
The class schedule can be found listed below. I've broken up the course into a set of thematic modules; these do not correspond perfectly to class meetings. All dates are subject to change.

**Part 1: From the Ancients to Wundt**

**8/22**
Module 1: Psychology and history in the history of psychology
- Introduction and course overview
- History in the history of psychology
- Psychology in the history of psychology

**8/24**
Module 2: On "science" and "progress"
- Some competing conceptions of science
- Assessing progress

**8/29**
Module 3: Psychology and the ancients (Hothersall, Chapter 1)
- Three phases
- The Greeks
- From Aristotle to the Renaissance

**8/31**
Module 4: The roots of psychology in philosophy (Hothersall, Chapter 2)
- The Renaissance
- The Enlightenment
- Sir Isaac Newton and empiricism
- Rene Descartes and the mind-body issue
- 17th and 18th C philosophy:
  - How do you know something is true?
- Early (17th C.) empiricism (largely British)
- 17th C. rationalism or nativism (largely German)
- The 18th Century
- 19th century British philosophy
- 19th century German philosophy
Module 5: The birth of scientific psychology (Hothersall, Chapter 3)
- Why does progress happen where it does and when it does?
- The birth of scientific psychology: Why Germany, why the 19th Century? (after Hilgard)
- The nature of 19th C. science

Module 6: Early physiological psychology
- Early brain and behavior
- Electricity and the nervous system
- Sensory specification
- Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz (1821-1894)
- Ewald Hering (1834-1918)
- Visual space perception

Module 7: Localization of function
- Background
- Franz Gall (1758-1828) and phrenology
- Marie-Jean Pierre Flourens (1794-1867) against phrenology
- Phineas Gage and the accident
- The Zeitgeist in 1850
- Paul Broca (1824 - 1880)
- The Zeitgeist in 1861
- Carl Wernicke (1848-1905)
- Synthesizing Broca and Wernicke
- Karl Lashley (1890 - 1958)

Module 8: From physiological psychology to neuroscience
- Early developments in reflex physiology
- Sir Charles S. Sherrington (1857 - 1952)
- Otto Loewi (1873-1961) and the nature of synaptic transmission
- Donald O. Hebb and the birth of neuroscience (1904 - 1985)
- The role of technology

Module 9: The two psychologies of Wilhelm Wundt (Hothersall, Chapter 4)
- Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920) - the person
- Influences on Wundt from 19th c. science
- Influences on Wundt from philosophy
- Wundt's two psychologies
- Wundt as the first psychologist
- Wundt's Ideas and contributions
Part 2: From systems to specialties

9/21:
Module 10: Edward Titchener (1867-1927) and the search for elements (Hothersall, Chapter 5)
  - Titchener the person
  - Science as a social enterprise
  - Titchener's differences with Wundt
  - Psychology as a field - scope, aims, implications
  - Introspection
  - Elementism
  - Later Titchener and the death of structuralism
  - The lasting influence of Titchener

9/26:
Module 11: The rise and fall of Hugo Münsterberg (1863-1916)
  - Münsterberg's psychology
  - Forensic psychology
  - The era of systems and schools of psychology
  - Review

9/28: Exam 1

10/3
Module 12: Fechner and psychophysics (Hothersall, Chapter 6)
  - Fechner's life
  - Fechner the philosopher
  - Fechner the psychophysicist
  - The (Weber-)Fechner law
  - Evaluation
Module 13: Some Other German Psychologists of the Nineteenth Centuries
  - Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850 - 1909) and the verbal learning tradition
  - Franz Brentano (1838-1917) and act psychology
  - Carl Stumpf (1848-1936) and phenomenology
  - Oswald Külpe (1862-1915) and the Würzburg school
  - The Zeitgeist in 1910

10/5
Module 14: Gestalt Psychology (Hothersall, Chapter 7)
  - Nature of gestalt psychology
  - "Laws of Gestalten"
  - Insight as anti-positivistic, anti-elemental
  - Extensions beyond perception/cognition
10/10 - 10/12
Module 15: A brief history of social psychology
· Early social psychology in America
· Lewin's psychology
· Late 20th C: Social psychology in crisis
· A case study in scientific progress
· The place of social psychology in psychology
· The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) at 75
· The psychological roots of political ideology

10/17
Module 16: Clinical psychology and psychoanalysis (Hothersall, Chapter 8)
· Role of abnormal in the study of mind and behavior (Hilgard, 17).
· History of attitudes towards mental disturbance
· Clinical and counseling psychologies
· Psychoanalysis
· Recent advances in psychotherapy

10/19
Module 17: The Darwinian revolution (Hothersall, Chapter 9)
· Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882)
Module 18: Galton, Cattell, and individual differences
· Individual differences

10/24
Module 19: Differential psychology and IQ testing (Hothersall, Chapter 11)
· Theory v. empiricism in IQ testing
Module 20: Social issues in IQ testing

Part 3: James and the development of an American psychology

10/26
Module 21: William James, person

10/31
Module 22: William James, psychologist
· Habit (Chapter IV)
· Stream of thought (consciousness) (Chapter IX)
· Consciousness of self (Chapter X)
· Sensation (Chapter XVII)
· Emotions (Chapter XXV)
· Paradoxes in the psychology of William James
· Review: Evaluating James
11/2: Exam 2

11/7
Module 23: G. Stanley Hall and developmental psychology
- G. Stanley Hall (1844 - 1924)
- James Mark Baldwin (1861 - 1934)
- Developmental psychology since Hall and Baldwin

11/9
Module 24: Two functionalist schools: Chicago and Columbia (Hothersall, Chapter 10)
- The meaning of functionalism
- The birth of "functionalism": The Titchener - Baldwin - Angell reaction time controversy
- Chicago functionalism
- Columbia and Stimulus response psychology

11/14
Module 25: Humanism and personality psychology
- William McDougall (1871 - 1938) and instincts
- Three approaches in the 1930s
- Personality testing
- Paul Meehl and measurement
- Carl Rogers and humanism

11/16
Module 26: Watson and the selling of behaviorism (Hothersall, Chapter 12)
- Roots
- John B. Watson (1878 - 1958)
Module 27: Pavlov and Russian classical conditioning
- Russian classical conditioning (S - R)
- Ivan P. Pavlov (1849 - 1936)
- Principles of conditioning
- Special applications
- Other Russian psychologies
- Other models of classical conditioning
Part 4: A context for modern psychological science and practice

11/21
Module 28: Edward Chace Tolman (1886 - 1959) and the birth of cognitive psychology (Hothersall, Chapter 13)
- Influences upon his psychology
- "Molar behaviorism" (1922)
- Purposive behavior in animals and men (1932)
- The determiners of behavior at a choice point (1938)
- Cognitive maps in rats and men (1948)
- Nature and nurture (beginning in 1924)
- Loyalty oath controversy

11/23
Module 29: Guthrie and contiguity learning
- Edwin R. Guthrie (1886 - 1949)
Module 30: Hull and the mathematical psychology tradition
- Clark Hull (1884 - 1952)
- Influence of Hull through his students
- More recent directions in mathematical psychology

11/28
Module 31: Skinner’s radical behaviorism
- The best known psychologist of his generation
- The focus of psychology
- Operant conditioning
- Skinner the social philosopher

11/30
Module 32: Cognitive psychology and cognitive science (Hothersall, Epilogue)
- Scientific revolutions in psychology?
- Cognitive psychology
Module 33: Assessing progress in contemporary psychology
- Some reasons for the slow progress of soft psychology
- Progress in contemporary psychology
- Current directions in psychological science and practice
- Some speculation concerning the future of psychology.
- Review

12/5 Final exam, 7:45 AM