

COURSE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2011

Course: History and Systems in Psychology, PSYC 420-01, Knutti 208
Instructor: Joseph R. Merz, Ph.D.
Office: Stutzman-Slonaker Hall Rm. 102C Office Phone 876-5296
Office Hours: T, TH 3:30-5:30; W 10:30-12:30; or by appointment
Cell Phone: (304) 582-1019 (Between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.)

NO EXCEPTIONS!

“Since all the sciences, and especially psychology are all immersed in such tremendous realms of uncertainty and the unknown, the best that any individual scientist, especially a psychologist, can do seems to be to follow his own gleam and his own bent, however inadequate that may be. In fact, I suppose that actually that is what we all do. In the end the only sure criterion is to have fun. And I have had fun.”

-Edward C. Tolman

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate how several fundamental ideas and theories came into existence, and how they, in turn, have had a profound effect on what today is the field of psychology. These theories and ideas will be presented in the contexts of the lives and perspectives of the individuals responsible for initially formulating them, in order to lend vitality and interest to important ideas that otherwise might appear to be less compelling.

TEXTBOOK

Pioneers in Psychology, Third Edition, written by Raymond E. Fancher, Ph.D.

CLASS STRUCTURE

The class periods will generally consist of three components: (1) lecture, (2) discussions, and (3) a period of time during which films and small group exercises will take place.

OBJECTIVES

A thorough understanding of how the field of psychology has evolved, from Rene Descartes to the way Sigmund Freud attempted to better understand who we, as human beings, function. This will include (a) an awareness of how the major “schools” of psychology developed, and (b) knowledge of the “schools’” origins and their major contributors. This goal is evaluated directly by examination.

ATTENDANCE

Attending class on a regular basis is very important. For each class missed beyond the equivalent of one week of class, two points will be deducted from your final semester grade. REMEMBER: ATTENDANCE REPRESENTS COMMITMENT!

TARDINESS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Arriving late for class twice over the course of the semester will be considered the maximum allowed. For every late arrival to class beyond this limit, you will be marked ABSENT for the class period.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please do not hold conversations with classmates whenever the professor or another student is speaking. Also refrain from writing and passing notes or participating in other distracting behavior. Your undivided attention in class is a must. An atmosphere of mutual respect is in order. The professor reserves the right to request that you leave if you engage in any form of disrespectful conduct.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the “Shepherd University Student Handbook.”

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Your grade will be determined according to the quality of work that you have produced in three class areas: 1) the results of four examinations, 2) quiz results, 3) a research project.
2. Each exam will consist of approximately 20-25 multiple choice questions and 1 essay question.
3. There will be a number of short announced quizzes, given over the course of the semester. The quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the material covered in this class.
4. Because of the added burden to the instructor and the basic unfairness to students who take examinations at the scheduled times, make-up examinations will be given only in cases of extreme hardship such as serious illness. The instructor reserves the right to schedule make-up tests during the week of final examinations. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.
5. The research project will consist of your working in groups of 2-3, investigating or researching a particular individual/theorist who has significantly impacted the field of psychology today. All projects will be orally presented to the class, and can be done in a number of different ways. Creativity will be encouraged!

6. Your final grade will be based on the following:

(1)	Four exams	75%
(2)	Research project	15%
(3)	Quizzes	<u>10%</u>
		100%

7. In compiling your final grade, an absolute scale will be used:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

8. **PLEASE NOTE:** The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

SPRING 2011
Tentative Schedule – History & Systems in Psychology

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 10	Orientation	
Jan 17	Rene Descartes and the Foundations of Modern Psychology	Chapter 1
Jan 24	Philosophers of Mind: John Locke and Gottfried Leibniz	Chapter 2
Jan 31	Physiologists of Mind: Brain Scientists from Gall to Penfield	Chapter 3
Feb 7	EXAMINATION #1	
Feb 14	The Sensing and Perceiving Mind. Immanuel Kant, Herman Helmholtz, and Gustov Fechner	Chapter 4
Feb 21	Wilhelm Wundt and the Establishment of Experimental Psychology	Chapter 5
Feb 28	Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution	Chapter 6
Mar 7	EXAMINATION #2	
Mar 14 - 20	Spring Recess	Chapter 7
Mar 20	William James	Chapter 8
Mar 28	EXAMINATION #3	
Apr 4	Psychology as the Science of Behavior	Chapter 9
Apr 11	The Early Hypnotists	Chapter 10
Apr 18	Sigmund Freud and the Psychodynamic School of Psychology	Chapter 11
Apr 25	Sigmund Freud and the Psychodynamic School of Psychology	Chapter 11
May 2	EXAMINATION #4	