Spring 2005

Psychology 230

History, Theories, and Systems

Dana S. Dunn, Ph.D.
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Class meets on Monday and Wednesday 2B (8:50-10am) in Hurd 233

Overview:

Historical origins of contemporary psychology, including structuralism, associationism, functionalism, behaviorism, Gestalt, and psychoanalysis, as well as recent developments in the field. Prerequisite: Psychology 120.

Required texts:


Course Requirements

1. *Class participation and attendance.* This seminar requires constant attendance, active participation, and critical discussion of the readings. I expect that you will attend each and every class, and that you will come prepared to talk about—and question—what you read. Class participation is worth 25% of your final course grade.

Please note that I will be taking role, thus your absence from class will affect your participation grade (i.e., if you are not in class, you cannot contribute to discussion). If you miss a class, you are responsible for any material covered, notes given, announcements, etc. If you are absent, please see one of your classmates regarding that day's assignments.

2. *Short papers.* Four short papers (3-5 pages) are required across the semester. These papers are meant to organize your thinking about a topic as well as to spur class discussion.

**Late Paper Policy.** You have four written assignments for this class. Hard copies of all paper assignments are due at the beginning of class or in advance of the dates listed in the syllabus. Papers submitted later than this time—*for any reason*—will be penalized by 20% (i.e., an paper that would have earned a 95 on time receives a 75) on the first day and 10% each day thereafter (including weekends), up to 50%. Practically speaking, an A paper that is 5 days late receives a grade of 50 once it is turned in—if it is never submitted, then it receives a grade of 0. I will not accept electronic copies of papers sent via email, only hard copies. Plan accordingly by working ahead and consistently on your papers.

**Submitting work early.** I am happy to accept your papers before they are due.

3. *Exams.* Two exams and a final exam will be given. The exams will be comprised of essay questions requiring you to make use of course materials and discussions. Each exam will be worth 10% of your final course grade (i.e., 20% overall), and the final will also be worth 10% of your semester grade. We will discuss the exam formats during class. *A missed exam will be recorded as a Zero (0) grade. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion, and valid evidence for the absence will be required (e.g., emergency, documented medical excuse).*

4. **Grading.** Your final course grade will be based on the following percentage weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers (10% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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5. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is the intentional use of another person’s work, misrepresenting that work as your own. All outside sources (i.e., any and all ideas that are not your own) must be properly cited—these include quotations from books, articles, etc. Having someone write a paper for you, relying on the course files from a fraternity or a sorority, or purchasing papers from a “professional” writing service are not acceptable methods for satisfying course requirements. The Psychology Department requires that students keep notes, note cards, rough drafts, etc. for papers until a course grade is given. A course instructor may request the above materials at any time. Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the new college policy on academic honesty. **In short, plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

6. **Office Hours:**
   - Monday: 10:15-11:15am
   - Wednesday: 2-3pm
   - Friday: 8:30-10:30am

   When necessary appointments for other times may be scheduled.

7. **Syllabus.** I reserve the right to alter the syllabus if I decide change is necessary.
Course Outline

Week One – Organizational Meeting and Course Overview – M Jan 10 & W Jan 12

Goodwin chapter 1

Week Two – Psychology’s Prehistory and Philosophical Context – M Jan 17 (No Class Meeting—Martin Luther King Day Observed) & W Jan 19

Goodwin chapters 2 and 3

Week Three – Physiological Approaches; German Psychology – M Jan 24 & W Jan 26

Goodwin chapter 4

Week Four – Descartes’ Error – M Jan 31 & W Feb 2

Damasio chapters 1 - 4

Week Five – Descartes’ Error continued – M Feb 7 & W Feb 9

Damasio chapters 5 – 8, 9 – finish

Week Six – Evolution and American Approaches – M Feb 14 & W Feb 16

Goodwin chapters 5 and 6

Paper 1 due on M Feb 14: According to Damasio, what was Descartes’s error? Critically evaluate Damasio’s position.

Week Seven – Structuralism and Functionalism – M Feb 21 & W Feb 23

Midterm Exam M Feb 21

Goodwin chapter 7

Midterm point of the semester – Friday, Feb 25

Week Eight – Testing and Gestalt Psychology – M Feb 28 & W Mar 2

Goodwin chapters 8 and 9

Paper 2 due on M Feb 28: Historically—and in your opinion—has psychological testing helped or hindered psychology? What about now, in our current day?
Spring Break – Sat March 5 thru Sun March 13

Week Nine – Behaviorism – M Mar 14 & W Mar 15

Goodwin 10 and 11

Week Ten – Skinner and Behavioral Utopias – M Mar 21 & W Mar 23

Read all of Skinner’s Walden Two
Film: A World of Difference: B. F. Skinner and Walden Two (NOVA)

Easter Recess – F March 25 thru M Mar 28

Last Day for Withdrawal from a Class is Friday, April 1st

Week Eleven – Freud and the Treatment of Mental Illness – W Mar 30

Goodwin chapter 12

Paper 3 due: Would you choose to live at Walden Two? Why or why not?

Week Twelve – Freud and On Dreams – M Apr 4 & W Apr 5

Read On Dreams
Film: Sigmund Freud: His Offices and Home, Vienna 1938

Week Thirteen – Practitioner in Psychology - M Apr 11 & W Apr 13

Goodwin chapter 13

Paper 4 due on M Apr 11: Evaluate Freud’s theory of dreams as wish fulfillments.

Week Fourteen – Psychology as Science? M Apr 18 & W Apr 20

Goodwin chapter 14

Week Fifteen – Psychology’s Past & Present - M Apr 25 & W Apr 27

Goodwin chapter 15

Final Exam period: M May 2 thru S May 7

Final Exam Date and Time to be announced: ________________________

Summer . . .
Acceptance of Course Requirements

To: Dana S. Dunn, Department of Psychology, Moravian College

From: _______________________________ (Print your name)

RE: Course requirements and syllabus for History, Systems, & Theories (PS 230) Spring 2005

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and agreed to meet the requirements and to follow the guidelines as presented in the syllabus for History, Systems, and Theories (Spring 2005) that I received at the beginning of the semester.

______________________________________     Date: ______________________
(Your Signature)