

# History of Psychology

## 380

Winter 2009

### 1 Instructor Information

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### 2 Course Description

Wilhelm Wundt founded modern psychology with the establishment of his psychological laboratory at Leipzig in 1879. Knowledge of such dates and places makes up Psychology's history and comprises the shared culture that binds our field and facilitates discourse about the bases of human behavior, cognition, and mental disorder. By excavating old psychological theories and examining artifacts the lives and times of the men and women who proposed them, we gain a useful fixed point against which to measure our own ideas and contemporary practices. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."  
-Santayana

The typical class session will be a lecture/discussion intended to supplement the readings and highlight the important issues. In addition, several classes will involve short collaborative demonstrations of core concepts.

### 3 Required Textbooks

In the past, I placed pdf files on line for the original readings. The feedback that I got was that students preferred an independent book, rather than the constant downloading and printing of files. Therefore, I have added the “original source” material book to the textbook from last year.

There are many good textbooks on the history of psychology. Even as a pair, these are less expensive than many. The size of the “Brief” history allows it to be read like a novel. If you would like a more extensive textbook, I would be happy to make recommendations and I have several examples in my office that you may look over. In addition, some students liked “The Story of Psychology” by Morton Hunt.

Here are the required texts:



A Brief History of Modern Psychology. Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. 2006, 264 pages, ISBN: 9781405132060.

History of Psychology: Original Sources and Contemporary Research. Editor: Ludy T. Benjamin. 2009, 427 pages, ISBN: 9781405177108

### 4 Course Requirements, Expectations, and Grading

#### 4.1 Requirements

The goal of this course is to give you a familiarity with the facts and movements of psychology so that you can use these ideas to improve your practice of psychology; be that as a researcher, clinician, or other occupation. Although, the facts to be taught are those of psychology, the lessons of how to advance a science or discipline are more general.

Practically speaking, you should do the assigned readings before class. If this is done, it gives me more of a chance to have a discussion than to just lecture. Also, it will be less embarrassing for you when I call on you; and I will call on you.

Assignments and short quizzes will be administered periodically during the term to help motivate you to keep up. If you do so, you can make an easy 20% of your grade and preparing for the final will be much easier.

In addition to the assignments, you will have to complete a project. This can be done alone or in a small group. The purpose of the project is to make

you a participant in the history of psychology. Although we will be primarily approaching this course as psychologists interested in our discipline, it is important also to have some sense of where the facts and teachings come from so that you can be a more discriminating scientific consumer. The project will also be 20% of your grade. You will have three choices for the type of project:

- Oral History- Arrange, conduct, and record a one hour interview with someone affiliated with the early years of UWaterloo Psychology. I will provide further details on this to anyone interested. You must get my permission for the contacting of the subject and the questions that you plan to ask the subject.
- Library Review- Review a volume of the early years of the Canadian Psychologist journal for any reference to UWaterloo Psychology. You will supply a listing of everywhere UW is mentioned including topic and page in a computerized format for integration into a single database. You must contact me for the assignment of the particular year and volume for your review and specifics on the format for your submission.
- Brief Instructional Video- I will show an example of this in class. It will be a more than three minute and less than 5 minute video on a topic of relevance to the history of psychology. I must approve the topic and outline of the video prior to its production. It must be provided in a commonly readable video format and contain appropriate copyright information.

There will also be a final examination that will be 60% of your grade. This final will be essay and will take place during the final examination period. It will be open book. You can bring any materials with you that you think will help, such as your course notes, handouts, etc. The only thing you cannot bring is an actual prewritten exam. Some people mistakenly believe that open book exams are easy. Actually, they are usually harder. What makes this exam difficult for some is that it requires them to integrate what they have learned and to write that down in a logical coherent format. We are taught to spit back facts more than we are taught to reason, but it is the ability to marshal our learning in support of principled argument that distinguishes the value of our education in the post-University years. Therefore, this type of exam is good practice and makes it more likely that you will retain the information past the summer break.

## 4.2 Grades

Your grade will be a composite of,

- classroom participation (a “soft” measure that I use as a tie breaker)
- brief in-class assignments
- brief out of class assignments -combined with above - 20%
- final examination (essay) - 60%
- project - 20%

### 4.3 Expectations

If you don't understand something, you will talk to me.

If you like the material, but are worried about your grade, you will talk to me before panicking and dropping. Things are likely not as bad as you fear.

I hope the course will challenge you and make you think. That is not the same thing as being a hard course. If you come to class having read the material and you make an effort on all assignments you will do fine. Not one single person dropped or failed the class last time around.

## 5 Accomodation for Students with Disabilities

Senate Undergraduate Council recommends (January 13, 2004) that instructors include the following statement in all course outlines:

"Note for students with disabilities The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term."

## 6 UW-ACE

I am trying to learn to use UW-ACE. It is my intention to have all assignments distributed on ACE and to have you make all submissions through ACE. I will be using an ACE grade book so that you can follow your scores on the assignments. Readings and optional materials will be available through ACE. I will try to set up a discussion board in UW-ACE as well. If you have a question that you think will be of general interest, ask it there so that everyone can see the answer.

## 7 Email Communications

If necessary for me to contact you I will do so using the link in UWACE. It is your responsibility to make sure that that address is up to date. If you chose to forward that address, it is your responsibility to make sure the forwarding works properly. I will only read email for this course if it comes through UWACE. If it doesn't come through UWACE I may not respond. The benefit of this system is that we both know when something is sent and we have a way to track it.

In general, email is not a good communication medium for resolving anything but the most straightforward questions. This class is not that big; come see me. If my office hours are not convenient than just stop by. If the door is open, you are welcome to pop your head in and see if I am free. You can also call my extension (x33056) and set up a time. I would prefer that we not communicate

by email except by prior agreement. If you have a question on the material, come see me so that we can address it substantively and so that I get a chance to know you. On the other hand, if you miss a class and want notes, get them from a classmate. If you have a simple question, like the reading assignment, ask a classmate.

## 8 Plagiarism and Academic Offences

Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm)). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to group work and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Also refer to "Avoiding Academic Offences" on the web at [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html) Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

## 9 The Official Course Outline

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline and the outline posted on UW-ACE, the outline on UW-ACE will be deemed the official version.