SYLLABUS*
PSYCHOLOGY 465 History & Systems
Summer 2011

Instructor: Rebecca Morse (rmorse@gmu.edu)

Class Hours & Location: 9:30AM-11:45am M-R; Enterprise Hall 173
Office Hours: By appointment.
Office Location: David King Hall 1027
Office Phone during hours: 703.993.4065


COURSE OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS:

Welcome to History and Systems of Psychology. I hope you find the course to be enjoyable and stimulating! The course focuses on the history of the discipline of psychology from its early roots in ancient times to its contemporary developments. It is a unique approach to history, and I hope that you develop an appreciation for the history you encounter in this course.

The course is intended to:
1) put the finishing touches on students’ undergraduate education in psychology with an integrated and historical perspective of the field,
2) present philosophical issues in psychology and other sciences,
3) promote an awareness of the ways that historical developments outside of psychology shape the discipline,
4) discuss the roots, the theories, and the relevance of several of the major trends in modern psychology including functionalism, structuralism, behaviorism, Gestalt psychology, psychoanalysis, humanistic psychology, and cognitive psychology,
5) examine the ways in which world views (religious, political, moral, and psychological) shape views of humans and psychology,
6) explore the evolution of ideas within philosophy and psychology,
7) stimulate interest in ideas and develop an appreciation for the process of taking ideas seriously, and
8) promote critical thinking and dialectic. Students are encouraged to think, discuss, and write freely and critically about philosophical dilemmas, historical trends, and the history of changes in the way humans view themselves.

In addition to these established goals of the course, you may wish to establish goals of your own. You may wish to learn more about a particular individual in the history of psychology. (e.g., Mary Whiton Calkins, B. F. Skinner, Baruch Spinoza, or Socrates) or about a system of thought (e.g., Rationalism, Gestalt psychology, Psychoanalysis, or Humanistic Psychology).

TECHNOLOGY:
*Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis (https://gmu.blackboard.com). Important class information, such as the syllabus and weekly readings will be posted here. To access Blackboard, students should use their George Mason email ID and password.

*In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly. Be sure to check that new messages can be received and that you are not over the message limit. You also have the option for your GMU account to be forwarded to another email address.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:
You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and apply the material. In order to make the most out of your learning experience, it is imperative that you are not only present at each class
meeting, but are alert, attentive, and ready to learn. Students are required to read (before class) any texts that may be assigned for that week. Class reading assignments will be posted on the syllabus and/or Blackboard.

Throughout the semester we will have small group discussions. You are responsible for being prepared to discuss the material, and are expected to actively participate in discussion with your classmates about the material. Participation is worth 10 points, and will be based on your level of engagement in your small group discussions. Although I do not grade based strictly on attendance, you will not be able to earn the maximum points for participation if you are frequently not present – meaning if you miss a class due to illness, as long as you communicate this with me, it will not affect your grade.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT/PRESENTATION:**

Students will write one research paper related to a class topic of your choice (you’ll need to discuss it with me first, to make sure it’s feasible). This paper will provide an opportunity for you to reply to class materials. The paper may be critical or appreciative and may deal with ideas from the lecture, the text, or the readings. This is your chance to reply to what I say in class or what is written in any of the other class material. I hope that you will feel safe to write a paper in which you freely state your ideas and opinions. These will also be submitted online via Blackboard. Due dates will be discussed in class, and posted online. The paper will be 12-15 pages in length (double spaced, 1” margins), should have a minimum of 5 references (WIKI DOES NOT COUNT!), and should be in APA 5th or 6th edition format. The research paper will be worth 30 points. The papers will be due approximately half-way through the semester.

Presentation: Students will present their research findings to the class via a power point presentation toward the end of the course. The presentation is worth 25 points, and will be graded upon professional standards: articulation (5 points); appearance of speaker (5 points); visuals including the slides (5 points); scholarly depth (5 points) and ability to cover the content (5 points).

**GRADES:**

1 Page Synopsis: 5 Points  
Research Paper: 60 points  
Presentation: 25 points  
Participation: 10 points  
**Total Possible Points: 100 points**

**GRADE CALCULATION:**

For simplicity, the points have been assigned such that a student can track their own grade without any confusing arithmetic acrobatics. If you earn 97 points you will have a class grade of 97%, which according to the below chart, is an A+. I round to the second decimal, so a grade of 91.49 is considered a 92 (A-), and a grade of 96.03 is a 96 (A).

Grade Breakdown:

- A+ 100 – 97
- B+ 89 – 87
- C+ 79 – 77
- D 69 - 60
- A 96 – 93
- B 86 – 83
- C 76 – 73
- F 59 and below
- A- 92 – 90
- B- 82 – 80
- C- 72 - 70

**HONOR CODE:**

All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the 2009-2010 University Catalog or online at the following website: http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/.

**DISABILITY HELP:**
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Important Dates (please see the website for full details http://summer.gmu.edu/registration/):

Last Day to Add: July 11
Last Day to Drop with No Tuition Liability: July 11
Final Drop Deadline (50% Tuition liability): July 18
100% Tuition Liability: July 19

Schedule of classes *Topics subject to change as needed to ensure that the majority of students are comfortable with material covered prior to moving to the next topic.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings (not incl. articles)/Quizzes</th>
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<tr>
<td>07/05/11</td>
<td>1  Introduction to the Course Critical Issues in Historical Studies</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>07/06/11</td>
<td>2  Philosophical Issues</td>
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<td>3  Ancient Psychological Thought</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>4  The Roman Period and the Middle Ages</td>
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<td>5  The Renaissance</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>07/13/11</td>
<td>6  Empiricism, Associationism, and Utilitarianism</td>
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<td>07/14/11</td>
<td>7  Rationalism</td>
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<td>07/18/11</td>
<td>8  Mechanization and Quantification</td>
<td>Research Topic Due (1 page synopsis)</td>
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<td>07/19/11</td>
<td>9  Naturalism and Humanitarian Reform</td>
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<td>07/20/11</td>
<td>10 Psychophysics and the Formal Founding of Psychology</td>
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<td>11 Developments after the Founding</td>
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<td>13 Behaviorism</td>
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<td>Chapters 13 &amp; 14</td>
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<td>15 Gestalt Psychology</td>
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<td>16 Psychoanalysis</td>
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<td>17 Humanistic Psychologies</td>
<td>Final Research Paper Due!</td>
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<td>Presentations, Part 1!</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/04/11</td>
<td>Presentations, Part 2!</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
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*Syllabus subject to change*