Course: HPS 5012H   Semester: Fall 2009

Title: History of Psychology

Instructor: Dr. Mark Solovey

Location and Time: BC20, Tues. 5-7

Office Location: IHPST, Victoria College, 91 Charles Street West, Room 307

Office Hours: Tues. 2-3 & by appointment

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Course Description

Most of us believe we know a thing or two about human psychology. Yet we also realize that personal views and popular wisdom about what makes us tick may be mistaken. In the last century and a half, a new and now-thriving discipline called "Psychology" has aimed to place our knowledge of the human mind, brain, and behavior on a scientific footing. Using a wide array of scientific tools, professional psychologists have been studying fundamental questions that concern all of us:

What are the basic psychological differences and similarities between people and other animals?

Are we fundamentally rational or irrational creatures?

Why do we do the things we do?

How does the mind work?

Are there deep psychological differences between males and females?

How about between people of different racial or ethnic backgrounds?

And how can professional psychology benefit the individual and society?

In this course we examine the history of psychology from a number of angles. We will focus on major figures like Wilhelm Wundt, Sigmund Freud, and B. F. Skinner. We will study the development of key controversies about scientific epistemology and methodology and about the social relevance and uses of psychological knowledge. We will consider how psychology was first established as an academic discipline, became institutionalized, grew as a profession, and came to be the large, diverse field of scientific inquiry and practical applications that it is today. We will examine the social context and specific influences (i.e., politics, war, social structure, patronage, academic environment, influential personalities, etc.) that have shaped the development of psychology and its relationships with the wider society. And we will consider how the history of psychology can be relevant to the theory and the practice of contemporary psychology.
We will also use the literature from the history of psychology to examine fundamental questions about the history of science:

What sorts of questions do historians of science ask?
What sorts of answers do they offer?
What evidence do they rely upon?
What rhetorical strategies and story-telling techniques do they employ?
What can the history of psychology contribute to the history of science, and vice versa?

Course Topics

Week 1  Introduction
Week 2  Aims, methods, trends and controversy in the history of psychology
Week 3  Measuring heads, brains, and intelligence
Week 4  Wilhelm Wundt and the founding of scientific psychology
Week 5  Sigmund Freud and the development of psychoanalysis
Week 6  The rise and fall of behaviorism, from J.B. Watson to B.F. Skinner and beyond
Week 7  "Beyond the Box": applied behaviorism
Week 8  American psychology and society during and after WWII
Week 9  The rise of cognitive psychology and the cognitive "revolution"
        Discussion of papers-in-progress
Week 10  No class
Week 11  No class -- Darwin conference
Week 12  Women in psychology and feminist perspectives
        Discussion of papers-in-progress
Week 13  If needed
**Required Readings**


Readings for the other weeks of this course come from journal articles. These will be readily available, with the specific references provided on a separate page.

**Grading**

Class attendance and participation: 20%. I expect students to attend each class, except in the case of emergencies, and to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Class presentations: 20%. Each student will make in-class presentations designed to stimulate discussion of the readings each week -- the number of presentations depends on enrollment and will be determined at the first class meeting.

Short papers: 30%. Students will turn in short papers, each 350-500 words, summarizing and commenting on the readings; the number of short papers will be determined at the first class meeting. At least two of these papers must discuss books. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each day late. I will put comments on these papers and return them. Your grade will be based upon your three best papers, which you will resubmit with my comments included at the end of the semester. Still, you must do the number of papers assigned.

Final paper: 30%. Students will write a paper, about 3000-4000 words. This can be an original research paper, or it can be a historiographic essay that analyzes the ways historians have approached a particular person, theme, or controversy in the history of psychology. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each day late. I encourage students to consult with me a number of times along the way, starting from the very beginning when you are trying to find a good topic and sources.

During weeks 9 & 12 students will provide a detailed outline or rough draft of their paper-in-progress for everybody in the class and make a brief presentation, 5-10 minutes, followed by questions and discussion, also 5-10 minutes. The final paper is due one week after the last class meeting.
Readings List for HPS 5012H, History of Psychology, Fall 2009

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The required books for this class are also listed on the syllabus. The rest of the reading comes
journal articles and will be made readily available. Most of the articles come from the following
three journals, which the UofT library has online.

Journal Abbreviations
AP    American Psychologist
HOP   History of Psychology
JHBS  Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences

I suggest that you do the readings for each week in the order listed.

Week 1
No readings.

Week 2


Week 3

Week 4


**Week 5**


**Week 6**


**Week 7**

**Week 8**


**Week 9**

**Week 10** No reading

**Week 11** No reading

**Week 12**