

## SYLLABUS

### *PSYCHOLOGY 465-002: HISTORY & SYSTEMS*

**Instructor: Phillip Gilmore**

*Office:* Robinson B 213A; *Phone:* (703) 993-3706 x40123; *E-mail:* [pgilmore@gmu.edu](mailto:pgilmore@gmu.edu);

*Office hours:* W 10:30 – 11:30a, or by appointment (e-mail to schedule)

#### COURSE OVERVIEW

**Catalog Description:** Historical background and major theoretical systems in modern psychology. Approaches include behaviorism, cognitive/information processing approaches, and psychodynamic theories.

**Course Objectives/Goals:** By the end of this course, you should be able to competently discuss major theoretical systems from the history of psychology and associate them with key historical figures, extrapolate principles of scientific innovation from historical sources and creatively predict future developments in psychology based on current trends.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading materials should be brought to class, and readings should be completed by the start of class after assignments are made. While not all of the reading material will be discussed during class time, students are responsible for all assigned readings. A tentative reading schedule accompanies this syllabus. The chapters on the schedule refer to the following textbook:

Hergenhahn, B. R. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) An Introduction to the History of Psychology

Journal articles will also be assigned during class time for reading throughout the semester, and these articles will need to be downloaded by the student. The first journal article is from the journal Science.

Platt, J. R. (1964). Strong Inference. *Science*, 146, 3642, pp. 347 – 353.

**Grading & Evaluation:** The grading strategy is intended to reward students for reliably reading the required text, attending class and thinking creatively about how events in the modern day are part of the continuous flow of history. To this end, the course grade is based on 10 quizzes, 3 exams and two papers. Although we will take 12 quizzes and 4 exams, the lowest 2 quiz grades and the lowest exam grade will be dropped from the final grade:

Quizzes (10): 50%; Papers (2): 20%; Exams (3): 30%

**Grading scale:** 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, etc.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be used to reward students for reliably reading the required text.

**Papers:** Papers will be creative and will require students to think about how historical events and trends are reflected in the modern day. Paper topics and specifications will be assigned during

lecture. Paper 1 is due 2/16 by end of class period; Paper 2 is due 4/26 by end of class period. Late papers will be failed.

**Exams:** Four non-cumulative exams will be given. Exams will include material from the textbook, other assigned readings and lectures. Exam 1 is on 2/21; Exam 2 is on 3/22; Exam 3 is on 4/19; the final exam will be held on 5/15 from 10:30a – 1:15p.

**Make-up exams:** If you miss an exam, a well documented excuse is needed to take a make-up exam. Generally, make-up quizzes will not be offered.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit may be obtained by participating in experiments sponsored by the Psychology Department. Each hour of experimental credit increases the final grade by 0.75%. Students may receive up to 3 additional percent (3%) in their final grade (4 hours max); final grades cannot exceed 100. However, participation in experiments is not a course requirement, and non-participation will not reduce the final grade.

### TENTATIVE LISTINGS OF CLASS MEETINGS AND TOPICS

#	Date	Topic	Important Reminders
1	1/24	Who's who?; Course structure and reminders	Read Ch. 1
2	1/26	Comprehensive baseline assessment	Read Platt (1964)
3	1/31	Innovation in science (Quiz 1)	Read Ch. 2 & 3
4	2/2	Ancient Greeks	
5	2/7	Ancient Greeks and the Dark Ages (Quiz 2)	Read Ch. 4
6	2/9	After Aristotle and the Dark Ages	
7	2/14	Beginnings of Moderns Science (Quiz 3)	
8	2/16	Beginnings of Modern Science	<b>Paper 1 due today</b>
9	2/21	<b>EXAM 1</b>	Read Ch. 5
10	2/23	Empiricism, Sensationalism & Rationalism	
11	2/28	Empiricism, Sensationalism & Rationalism (Quiz 4)	Read Ch. 8
12	3/1	The Rise of Scientific Psychology	Read Ch. 9
13	3/6	Early Approaches to Psychology (Quiz 5)	Read Ch. 10
14	3/8	Darwin's Influence	Read Ch. 11 (through Hall)
*3/12 – 3/16		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
15	3/20	Functionalism (Quiz 6)	Read Ch. 11 (after Hall)

<b>16</b>	3/22	<b>EXAM 2</b>	Read Ch. 12 (All except “Watson’s Adult Life”)
<b>17</b>	3/27	Recap Exam 2 and Revise Syllabus	Read Ch. 13 (through Tolman, then Skinner through end)
<b>18</b>	3/29	Behaviorism and Neobehaviorism (Quiz 7)	Read Goldstein Ch. 1*
<b>19</b>	4/3	Behaviorism and Cognitive	Read Ch. 20
<b>20</b>	4/5	The Cognitive Revolution	
<b>21</b>	4/10	The Cognitive Revolution; non sequitur on Gestalt (Quiz 8)	Read Ch. 15
<b>22</b>	4/12	Psychopathology	Read Ch. 16
<b>23</b>	4/17	Psychoanalysis and Freud (Quiz 9)	
<b>24</b>	4/19	<b>EXAM 3</b> , After exam pick up Paper 2 prompts	Read Ch. 17 (Carl Jung and Summary); Bandura (2004)**
<b>25</b>	4/24	Alternatives to Psychoanalysis (Quiz 10)	Read Ch. 18
<b>26</b>	4/26	Humanism (Quiz 11)	Read Ch. 21; <b>Paper 2 due today</b>
<b>27</b>	5/2	Contemporary Psychology (Quiz 12)	
<b>28</b>	5/4	Contemporary Psychology	
<b>NA</b>	5/14	<b>FINAL EXAM; 10:30a – 1:15p</b>	

\* Goldstein Chapter 1 will be e-mailed to group

\*\*Students should download the Bandura (2004) article through their gmu library access.

Bandura, A. (2004). Swimming against the mainstream: The early years from chilly tributary to transformative mainstream. *Behavior Research and Therapy*, 42, 613 – 630.

**Important dates:** 1/31 is last day to drop with no tuition penalty  
2/24 is last day to drop

*Note: This syllabus, including the class schedule, is subject to possible modification. Any changes in the course will be announced as soon as is possible.*

**OTHER POLICIES & RESOURCES**

**Technology:** The primary modes of instruction are in-class lectures and activities. Lecture materials may be specifically requested from the instructor. Journal articles should be accessed through the student's GMU library subscription.

**Special needs:** <http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/drc//>

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with a disability or special needs. 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.

**University Honor policy:** George Mason University has an honor code that states the following:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

The sanctions for being found guilty of an honor code violation can include but are not limited to receiving an F in this course or permanent dismissal from the university. Honor code violations are assessed by an Honor Code Committee.

For a plagiarism resource, please visit <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>

**Counseling Services:** <http://caps.gmu.edu//>

Should a student require psychological support, you can refer them (or walk them over to) the Counseling Center, which provides individual and group sessions to students. They also support the Learning Services Program (703-993-2999) which offers academic skill-building workshops and a tutor referral service.

**University Writing Center:** <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Should you have a student with writing problems, the University Writing Center provides writing services to students (both undergraduate and graduate), at no charge.