

History of psychology

Course description, academic year 2025/2026

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Table of contents

0.1	Course description	1
0.2	Learning outcomes	1
0.3	Course content by weekly class schedule	1
0.4	Course content by weekly class schedule	1
0.5	Course content by weekly class schedule	1
0.6	Course content by weekly class schedule	2
0.7	Course policies	2
0.8	Grade Breakdown	2
0.9	Weekly quizzes (20%)	2
0.10	Exam (60%)	2
0.11	Seminar, diary activities (20%)	2
0.12	How do ECTS credits work?	3
0.13	Student behavior	3
0.14	Student behavior	3
0.15	Student behavior	3
0.16	Course readings	3
0.17	Literature	4
0.18	Literature	4
0.19	Literature	4
0.20	Literature	5

0.1 Course description

- Main objective of this course is to inform students about the development of psychology throughout history.
- The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the History of Modern Psychology and its relevance to the present.
- Comprehend the developmental context behind various areas of psychology.
- The field of psychology prioritizes the development of methodology, research areas, and methods.

0.2 Learning outcomes

After the completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain various concepts in the development of psychology, its timeframe and the area of research
2. Compare the developmental context of various areas of psychology
3. Explain the occurrence of methodology in psychology and the metalanguage of psychology
4. Analyse classical and contemporary approaches to psychology
5. Explain the development of different approaches to psychology with regards to cultural context

0.3 Course content by weekly class schedule

1. Introduction to the course (1L - 03/10/25)
2. Methodology and reconstructing Psychology's Past, contextual Forces in Psychology, Conceptions of Scientific History, problems in historiography (10/10/25 1L+1S)
3. Early Psychological Thought (Ancient Psychological Thought, Christianity, The Roman Period and the Middle Ages - the lost millenium) (17/10/25 1L+1S)

0.4 Course content by weekly class schedule

4. Philosophical and Religious Influences on Psychology (from 15/16th -) (24/10/25 1L+1S)
5. Physiological Influences on Psychology (from 15/16th -) (31/10/25 1L+1S)
6. Psychophysics and Experimental psychology (07/11/25 1L+1S)
7. Structuralism (14/11/25 1L+1S)
8. Functionalism: Development and Founding

0.5 Course content by weekly class schedule

9. Exam I, Medieval Time (28/11/25 1+1S) (28/11/25 1L+1S)
10. Psychoanalysis (05/12/25 1L+1S)
11. Behaviorism (12/12/25 1L+1S)

0.6 Course content by weekly class schedule

12. Gestalt psychology (19/12/25 1L+1S)
13. Abnormal psychology across the history movements (09/01/26 1L+1S)
14. Abnormal psychology across the history movements (16/01/26 1L+1S)
15. Exam II (23/01/26 1L+1S)

0.7 Course policies

- Course materials and items discussed in class will be on the exam.
- Answers to quizzes and the exam will be submitted through GSuite Forms, at least as long as this class is being offered online.

0.8 Grade Breakdown

- Weekly Quizzes: 20%
- Exam I and Exam II: 60%
- Seminar activities (Share or present your thoughts and ideas about the lectures, assigned materials, and discussions in the course.): 20%

0.9 Weekly quizzes (20%)

- Some classes you will receive a quiz lasting approximately 10 minutes. The quiz will concern the materials assigned for that class (e.g., lecture, reading...).
- Missed quizzes will be assigned a 0.

0.10 Exam (60%)

- The exam will consist of 2 parts, In-class Exam (multiple choice and T/F questions)
- Exam I, (29/11/24)
- Exam II (24/1/25)

0.11 Seminar, diary activities (20%)

- Seminars, student work, research
- This part will relate to the papers, textbooks that you can find under each topic
- Learning engagement and personal reflection

0.12 How do ECTS credits work?

- One ECTS point = 30 hours
- Our course: 3 ECTS - 90 hours
- Lectures (26 hours): two hours per week for 13 weeks
- Literature, reading time: five pages per hour (250 pages)
- Two exams (already includes in quizzes, lectures, literature reading time. But we have the rest of 90; $90 - 26 - 50 = 14$ hours)

0.13 Student behavior

- Our courses provide an excellent environment for adult learning.
- You are at the university! This is not a high school!
- It is not allowed to come late or go early. This behavior is both disruptive and unfair to both students and the instructor.

0.14 Student behavior

- It is not allowed to walk around during class. Except in the case that you're sick and suffering from an illness.
- Cell phone usage (both incoming and outgoing) is prohibited during class as is text messaging!

0.15 Student behavior

- An absence will be recorded if you leave the room due to a ringing cell phone during class. A special exception to this rule might be allowed in case of a hospitalized family member or a sick child at home.
- Eating is NOT allowed during class time. Drinks are allowed.
- One of the most common causes of violating academic honesty is plagiarism. Please, take care about that!

0.16 Course readings

- Presentations and materials from lectures
- Readings will be a combination of literature (primary and secondary sources)
- Main handbooks: Benjafield (2015) and Woody & Viney (2024)

0.17 Literature

Benjafield, J. G. (2015). *A History of Psychology* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press Canada.

Brett, G. S. (2013). *A history of psychology. Ancient and Patristic* (Vol. I). London & New York: Routledge.

Brett, G. S. (2013). *A history of psychology. Mediaeval and Early Modern Period* (Vol. II). London & New York: Routledge.

Brett, G. S. (2013). *A history of psychology. Modern Psychology* (Vol. III). London & New York: Routledge.

Jalobeanu, D., & Wolfe, C. T. (2022). *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*. Springer.

0.18 Literature

Klempe, S. H. (2020). *Tracing the Emergence of Psychology, 1520–1750: A Sophisticated Intruder to Philosophy*. Springer International.

Klempe, S. H., & Smith (eds.), R. (2016). *Centrality of History for Theory Construction in Psychology* (1st ed.). Springer International Publishing.

Henley, T. B., & Thorne, B. M. (2005). The Lost Millennium: Psychology During the Middle Ages. *The Psychological Record*, 55(1), 103–113. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF03395500>.

Luccio, R. (2013). Psychologia: The birth of a new scientific context. *Review of Psychology*, 20(1–2), 5–14.

0.19 Literature

Pickren, W.E. & Rutherford, A. (2010). *A history of modern psychology in context*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey.

Schultz, D. P., & Schultz, S. E. (2011). *A History of Modern Psychology* (10th ed.). Wadsworth Publishing, Wadsworth, CA, USA.

Valsiner, J. & Brinkmann, S. (2016). Beyond the “Variables”: Developing Metalanguage for Psychology. In S. H. Klempe & R. Smith (ed.), *Centrality of History for Theory Construction in Psychology*. Springer International Publishing.

0.20 Literature

Vidal, F. (2011). The sciences of the soul: the early modern origins of psychology. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, USA.

Woody, W. D., & Viney, W. (2024). A History of Psychology: The Emergence of Science and Applications (7th ed.). Routledge NY.

21.11., 05.12., strukturalizam, funkcionalizam 19.12, 09.01., 16.01.

