

Psych 4B03 – History of Psychology – Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Scott Watter

Office: Psychology 408, ext. 23031

Contact:

- To contact the instructor, please EMAIL: 4b3@cogsci.mcmaster.ca - this is *by far* the quickest and most reliable way to contact me! (Again, note the address: 4b3@COGSCI.mcmaster.ca)
- Please send email from your McMaster account!!! – hotmail, yahoo, etc. is often filtered as spam!!!

Classes: Thursday, 11:30pm-2:30pm, HH 305

TAs : Adam Spadaro spadaraj@mcmaster.ca

Zachary Durisko duriskzt@mcmaster.ca

Tutorials and Office Hours:

There are NO additional scheduled tutorials or office hours for this course. If you need to speak with the instructor, please do so at class, or send email (4b3@cogsci.mcmaster.ca). If you need to meet or discuss things outside of our regular class time, you are welcome to email and set up a time to meet outside of class; if you need to discuss private issues, please email me at watter@mcmaster.ca.

WebCT:

In this course we will be using WebCT. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

The course website is available to registered students by logging into WebCT: <http://webct.mcmaster.ca> You will need to learn how to use WebCT to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. Detailed instructions for logging in and using WebCT can be found on the website above.

Text / Reference Materials:

We will be using the following textbook throughout the course:

Connections in the History and Systems of Psychology (3rd Edition), by B. Michael Thorne & Tracy B. Henley.

There are several additional web resources that you might find useful throughout the class:

- Classics in the History of Psychology <http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/>
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Course objectives and content:

The primary objective of this course is to learn about and understand the progression of ideas, philosophy, and schools of thought from ancient Greece to present day, with respect to the development of modern Psychology, and to the development of Philosophy of Mind and the Philosophy of Science more generally. The class will focus on discussing and understanding major scientific and philosophical movements and ideas in their historical context, and in contrast with their modern-day descendents. Successful students will demonstrate a deep conceptual understanding of the material and demonstrate the synthesis of insightful comparisons between schools of thought and their related ideas, through oral discussion in class and through written assignments throughout the semester.

CHANGES IN COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on WebCT and announced in class.

ASSESSMENT:

Your assessment in this class will be based on a series of written assignments (details below), plus contribution to class discussion throughout the semester. There are no midterm or final examinations for this course. All of this assessment is designed to encourage and assess critical thinking and writing, with respect to issues and themes within History of Psychology, and Philosophy of Science more generally. Assessment is as follows:

- 60% - best 5 of 6 Papers (plus your own questions) (12% each)
- 25% - 5 WebCT Discussion Assignments (5% each)
- 15% - class contribution and participation

NOTE! - Missed Assessment:

All excuses for missed assignments, absences, etc. must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty. It is **YOUR** responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible.

Papers 1-6 (plus your own questions):

There will be six questions/topics assigned throughout the semester, on which you will need to write a 4-page paper addressing the question. These topics will primarily address issues related to our current class readings. Specific requirements regarding what to address in these papers will be given along with these questions throughout the semester. Question topics will be given out in class, and posted on WebCT approximately a week before papers are due.

For each topic, in addition to the 4-page paper, you also need to propose 3 questions you have relating to this topic. These questions should be well thought-out, and not trivial or trivially answered (e.g. questions about simple factual material that you could go and look up are not good candidates here). These questions are not graded independently from your paper – rather, their quality can modify your paper grade. High-quality questions may help to improve a paper grade a point or two; average-quality questions will have no effect on paper grades; low-quality or missing questions may reduce a paper grade a point or two. Most of the time, we expect that submitted questions will not influence paper grades; not submitting questions will reduce your grade by 2 points (out of 12).

You will have six of these papers to write during the semester. The best five of these three will each count 12% towards your final grade. **Each paper has a MAXIMUM length of 4 pages of text, double spaced, 12 point Times, Times Roman, Times New Roman, or similar font**, not including a title/cover page (name, student number, class info, etc). You do not need a reference section, but you should reference any sources that you use beyond the textbook. **Any additional text over 4 pages will not be read or considered for your grade** – the ability to express your ideas concisely is a part of your assessment here. Your 3 questions should be added separately at the end of your paper, and don't count towards your 4-page limit.

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK: You are required to submit your papers (Papers 1-6) in two formats – a paper copy is due at the beginning of class on the due date, **AND** an electronic copy is due via email at the same time or earlier (i.e. you have to send this before you come to class). Your electronic copy **MUST** be sent as an email attachment in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or PDF. If you cannot do this, or do not understand this requirement, please let your instructor know **before** your first paper is due. **You MUST submit electronic versions of your work along with paper copies.**

EMAIL your electronic versions to BOTH: 4b3@cogsci.mcmaster.ca AND 4b3ta@cogsci.mcmaster.ca

WebCT Discussion Assignments 1-5:

There will be five questions/topics assigned throughout the semester, for which you will need to write a 300-500 word discussion paper. This paper is to be posted online in the appropriate WebCT discussion forum. In addition, you need to write a response to one or more other discussion papers posted on a given topic. So, for each topic, you write one original paper (approx. 300-500 words), plus one response (approx. 200-300 words). For each topic (5%), 3% is allocated to the initial paper, and 2% for your response. There are five assignments in total, each worth 5%. Please don't wait until the last moment to post these papers – your initial papers are required so that there is some time to respond to them. These assignments are due (must be posted to WebCT) by the start of our weekly class.

Class Contribution and Participation:

Class discussion is a large part of what makes a successful senior seminar-style class. We will have a good deal of discussion in class relating to our readings, and larger issues relating to psychology and philosophy of science more broadly. Please come to class ready to contribute and interact – critical thinking about the assigned readings is an important aspect of this. Much of the time spent in class will involve discussion and collaborative development of important topics. Contribution to and participation in this process is one of the things that will help you consolidate these ideas, and is the whole point of this kind of class. Grades for this section (15%) will be allocated in consideration of quality of contribution as well as general participation.

PLEASE NOTE! – Class Attendance Is Important!

Because a great deal of the organizational and informational content of this class will be delivered during our weekly meeting times, class attendance is extremely important. If you know in advance that you must miss a meeting, then please let it be known with as much advance warning as possible. Any excuses for missed assessment must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty, as described below under “Missed Assessment”.

Academic Integrity Policy:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Final Grades: All assessment components will be assigned numerical grades, and the total converted to a letter grade according to McMaster's standard grading scheme:

A+ 90-100%	A 85-89%	A- 80-84%	B+ 77-79%	B 73-76%	B- 70-72%	
C+ 67-69%	C 63-66%	C- 60-62%	D+ 57-59%	D 53-56%	D- 50-52%	F 0-49%

Class Schedule:

Date	Activity	Reading (chapters)
Sep 4	Introduction; Course Syllabus; Some initial thoughts.	1
Sep 11	Ancient Greece, Rome, and the Middle Ages	(1), 2, 3
Sep 18	Discussion Paper 1 due The Renaissance to Empiricism, Associationism, Positivism, etc	4, 5
Sep 25	WebCT Discussion Assignment 1 due British meets Continental Philosophy, 1700s-early 1800s	5, 6
Oct 2	Discussion Paper 2 due Physiological influences on the developing field of Psychology	7
Oct 9	WebCT Discussion Assignment 2 due Origins of modern Psychology in Germany (mid 1800s – early 1900s)	8
Oct 16	Discussion Paper 3 due Darwin & evolutionary theories	9, plus see WebCT
Oct 23	WebCT Discussion Assignment 3 due Early American Psychology, Functionalism	10, 11
Oct 30	Discussion Paper 4 due Early animal Psychology, Behaviorism, Neobehaviorism	12, 13
Nov 6	WebCT Discussion Assignment 4 due Gestalt Psychology	14
Nov 13	Discussion Paper 5 due Psychoanalysis	15
Nov 20	WebCT Discussion Assignment 5 due Clinical Psychology & Modern Psychotherapy; Applied Psychology	16, 17
Nov 27	Discussion Paper 6 due Cognitive Psychology & the Cognitive Revolution	18