

# General Psychology Psy 100

## Introduction



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## What We Will Cover in This Section

- Course requirements.
- What is psychology?
- General themes in psychology.



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## Administrative Things

- Contacting me
  - Phone
  - E-mail
- Attendance
- Grade scale
- Office Hours
- Special needs
- Books
  - Text
  - Study guide



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## Course Web Site

- Syllabus.
- How to contact me.
- PowerPoint slides.
- Interesting sites.
- Pictures of me.



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## Evaluation #1

- Quiz after each section.
- Each quiz worth about 15-25 points.
- Drop lowest quiz in computing grade.
- Drop the first missed quiz as the lowest quiz.
- Make up subsequent quizzes
  - with excuse no penalty.
  - without excuse lose a point a day.
  - Must make up work the week you return to class.

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## Evaluation, Part 2

- Assignments.
- Portfolio.
- Honesty.
- Extra credit.
- Final examination.

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## Sample Multiple Choice Item

1. This course is called
  - A. Elementary physics
  - B. Fun with sushi.
  - C. Psychology
  - D. Existential phenomenology.

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## Sample TRUE-FALSE Item

1. **TRUE FALSE** California University of Pennsylvania is located in Pennsylvania.
2. **TRUE FALSE** Your professor is Wally Segap.

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## Sample Written Item

**Define and give an example of the term CHEATING.**

*CHEATING occurs when a person copies another person's work and turns it in as his/her own. An example would be copying someone's quiz answers or turning in someone else's paper and taking credit for it.*

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## Example of **BAD** Definitions

**CHEATING** is like when you cheat and do bad things. Like taking your friend's pencil.

**CHEATING** is illegal stuff people do in class and they get caught.

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## Reality Check

- Why are you here?
- Why I should be here.
- My approach to the course.



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## QUESTION?

What is Psychology?



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## Psychology

The SCIENTIFIC  
study of  
BEHAVIOR and  
MENTAL processes.

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## Psychology vs. Sociology

Psychology

Sociology

Focus on individual  
behavior

Focus on group  
behavior

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## Clinical Psychologists vs. Psychiatrists

Clinical Psychologist

Psychiatrists

Intensive study of  
abnormal behavior in  
graduate school.

A medical doctor who  
specializes in treating  
abnormal behavior.

Highly restricted in  
ability to prescribe  
drugs.

Legally permitted to  
administer all level of  
drugs.

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## Specialties in Psychology

- Clinical Psychologist
- Biological Psychologist
- Developmental Psychologist
- Experimental Psychologist
- Social Psychologist
- Industrial Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- School Psychologist

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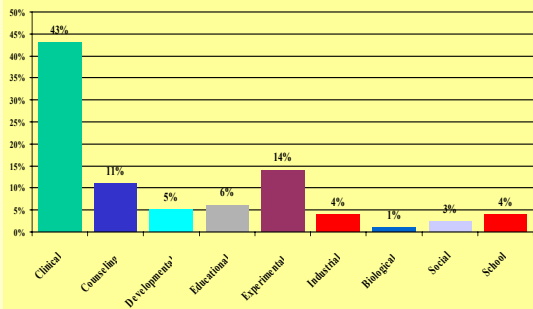
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Percent of Psychologists in Each Specialty Area



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## Historical Overview



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## 1. Structuralism (1879)

- Attempted to evaluate conscious experience in terms of its elements.
- What are the basic elements of
  - Sensations
  - Images
  - Affectations
- How studied.
  - INTROSPECTION

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## Issues and Concerns

- How objectively real is a person's experience?
- Introspection may change the mental operation being observed.

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## 2. Psychodynamic (1905)

- Most behavior is triggered by unconscious processes.
- Normally, we cannot be aware of these processes.
- Every action is caused by unconscious drives.
- The mental conditions that influence our behavior is beyond our immediate knowledge.

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### 3. Functionalism (1910)

- Attempted to identify the functions or uses of mental processes.
  - Believed that it is impossible to break mental processes into parts.
  - Focused on how various processes are used.
- Stream of Consciousness.
  - The mind is moving, continuously changing. You can't look at pieces.

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### 4. Behaviorism (1915)

- What psychology should study is overt behavior and the conditions (stimuli) that trigger that behavior.
- Focus on observable behavior.
- Cannot see what is going on inside a person's mind.
- Strong belief that learning is the key factor in psychology.

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### 5. Humanistic (1950)

- Focus on a person's subjective experience.
- Have to understand each person individually.
- Have to look at the total person, not pieces.
- People have conscious control of their actions.
- People are basically good and have an inherent desire to grow and develop.

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## 6. Cognitive (1970)

- Focus on how people think and process information.
- Emphasis on the roles of mental processes.
- Feel that the mind is active, creative, and can make connections on its own.
- We should look at the behavior and infer how people think.

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## 7. Biological/Physiological (1970)

- Emphasis on the biological processes that underlie behavior and mental events.
  - How are nerve cells organized.
  - How do elements of the brain communicate?
  - How do hormones affect behavior.

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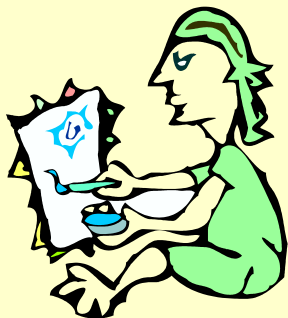
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## Major Themes



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$$B = f(P::E)$$

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## Key Variables

- Dispositional (Person) Variables.
  - Inner determinants of behavior.
  - Examples.
    - Genetics.
    - Brain chemistry.
- Situational (Environmental) Variables
  - External influences on behavior.
  - Examples.
    - Peers.
    - Food.
    - Location.

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## Applications of B=f(P::E)

- Intelligence.
  - Is intelligence inherited or learned?
- Therapy.
  - Is depression caused by brain chemistry or stress?
- Development
  - Critical periods.
- Teaching
  - How do you teach unmotivated students?

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## 2. Conscious vs. Unconscious

- **Conscious.**
  - Events that influence our behavior that we are aware of.
- **Unconscious.**
  - Events that influence our behavior that we are not aware of.

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**The End**

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