

***PsyC85 – The History of Psychology***  
Fall 2019 Offering  
Syllabus

***Contact Details:***

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Textbook: John G. Benjafield A History of Psychology (4th Edition)

Lectures: Wednesdays in IC220, 3-5 pm

Midterm Exam Date: TBD ... but likely Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, in class

***Overview:***

In this course my goals are to expose you to the history of psychology, but to do so while also giving you a hands on sense of what historians do. So yes there will be readings and lectures, and I'll assess your learning of that content via a midterm and final exam which, combined, will comprise 70% of your grade (30% midterm, 40% final). In this part of the course we will cover topics such as ...

- The philosophical contributions of the ancient Greeks.
- The emergence of science during the Renaissance.
- French, English, and German contributions to psychology.
- Major developments related to psychology in the 19th century.
- The founding of experimental psychology.
- Schools of psychology including: behaviourism, structuralism, phenomenology, existentialism, functionalism, cognitivism, and neuroscience.
- Developments in the 21st century

## ***The Twist: Wikipedia!***

As many of you are likely aware, I never seem to run a “normal” course, where normal often means lectures, text reading and multiple-choice exams. Yes, I have those “concept learning” aspects, but in addition to teaching concepts I feel that every course should challenge you in ways that help you develop the skills you will need to succeed in our challenging world. I like things that make you think critically and creatively, and that teach you about different ways of communicating and working with others.

With this in mind, 30% of your grade will come from a group project that we’ll be performing as part of a larger WikiEdu initiative. Specifically, you will work with 4 others to create (or significantly improve an existing) Wikipedia page related to an important figure in the history of Psychology. No, not Freud! Someone a little lesser known probably ☺ This will give you a strong hands-on feel for how historic knowledge is communicated and shared in the modern world, which will give you a better sense of how to consume historical knowledge.

Near the end of the course, if your article is of sufficient quality, we will publish it and you’ll instantly see 1000s of people from around the world reading and learning from it. Over time others will build on your work, and students the world over will go to it for information. But it has to be high quality (which is great, it means most of you will do really well on this part!)

Performing this will require you to learn a lot about Wikipedia. Please don’t feel intimidated by this. WikiEdu has created a process to slowly inform you about what you need to know, and to make you feel comfortable with the process. There are a number of online modules you will need to go through, earning points in this class you do. Before we go live we will also do a round of peer-review (using peerScholar) wherein we will all help other students in this class to ensure their work is high quality.

I will send an announcement with details of how to create a username and connect with the WikiEdu offering of the course. Once there you will see a listing of the things you will need to do, week by week. None of them will take much time, but all are required.

## ***Grade Breakdown***

Midterm - 60 item multiple-choice test	30%
Final – 80 item cumulative MC test	40%

### Wikipedia

Doing all the training steps	8%*	*All must be completed or 0
Quality of Feedback in peerScholar	5%	
Quality of Group Article	7%	
Your contribution to the Article	10%	

## ***Learning Outcomes***

Whenever we create courses now we are encouraged to explicitly state what we hope you will gain by being a student in this course. Here are the outcomes I am striving for ...

Students who engage in this course in a conscientious manner will leave it with ...

- a much clearer understanding of how the psychology we practice now, in our labs and in our clinics, came to be the way it is
- a strong sense of the primary individuals that have shaped psychology, alone with the roles they played, the questions they were focused on, and the impact they had
- a strong appreciation for how adopting a scientific approach has moved psychological knowledge along in a way that would not be possible otherwise, and how specific aspects of that approach came to be
- a clear understanding of how information comes to be on Wikipedia, the roles individuals play in bringing this information to the world, and the value that doing so has for others
- practice writing professionally, in ways that are context appropriate while be clear and effective
- practice thinking critically and creatively, and responding to feedback in positive ways