

HISTORY AND THEORY

Mark Freeman
Beaven 331

Spring, 2009
793-2530

Office hours: MW, 1:30-3 (Beaven 331);
and by appointment (Smith 224)

This course will explore in historical perspective what are considered to be (most of) the major “systems” – i.e., comprehensive bodies of thought – of psychology. Rather than simply being a survey, however, we will examine these systems in order to articulate those fundamental ideas, questions, and philosophical controversies (the mind/body issue, free will vs. determinism, the nature/nurture debate, etc.) that define psychology as an arena of intellectual thought. There is another very basic goal of the course as well; and that is to determine for ourselves whether psychology has been moving in the “right” direction during the last century (especially in its aim of becoming a legitimate science) or whether, perhaps, it has taken some questionable turns along the way. At base, then, there are two fundamental questions that we will try, hard, to answer as best we can throughout this course: *Who are we?* And: *How is the human condition best studied?* We’ll be asking lots of others along the way as well.

Course requirements will consist of two series of take-home essays (the first assigned on February 9, due February 20; the second assigned on March 15, due March 26), as well as a final paper or project (which will be due no later than May 8). Each of these requirements will be approximately one-third of your grade. Class discussion, while not figuring directly into your grade, can work on your behalf depending on your level of participation. The most important aims: *reading for meaning, a willingness to enter the “thickets” of ideas, and, a desire to think for yourself about the psychological world.*

REQUIRED TEXTS

Flanagan, Owen. *The Problem of the Soul*

Frankl, Viktor. *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Freud, Sigmund. *Introductory Lectures on Psycho-analysis*

James, William. *Psychology: The Briefer Course*

Jung, C.G. *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*

May, Rollo. *Psychology and the Human Dilemma*

Skinner, B.F. *Walden Two*

OUTLINE OF COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

PROGRESS OR REGRESS?

Constructing and Deconstructing the History of Psychology

Week of 1/12: **May**, *Psychology and the Human Dilemma*, Introduction,
Chapter 1

Flanagan, *The Problem of the Soul*, Preface, Chapter 1

WHAT IS “HUMAN BEING”?

Exploring the Question of Life’s Meaning

Week of 1/19: **Frankl**, *Man’s Search for Meaning*, Part I

WHO AM “I”?

The Analytic Breakdown of Human Experience

Week of 1/26: **Wundt**, “From Philosophy to Psychology,”
“Psychical Elements and Compounds,”
“Feeling, Will, and Consciousness,”
“Will, Character, and Mind” [ERes]

CREATURES OF WHAT SORT?

Instinct, Reason, and the Evolution of the Self

Week of 2/2: **James**, *Psychology: The Briefer Course*
Introductory, Chapters 15-17
Chapters 1-3, Epilogue

WHY “HERMENEUTICS”?

Psychoanalysis and the Archeology of the Hidden

Week of 2/9: **Freud**, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
Lectures I, V-VII, IX-XI, XIV-XV, XVI-XXI

Week of 2/16: **Freud**, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
Lectures XXIII-XXV, XXVII-XXVIII,

Selections from *The Future of an Illusion* [ERes]

NATURAL OR SUPERNATURAL?

“Matter” and “Spirit”

Week of 2/23: **Jung**, *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, Chapters 6-10

HOW RELATIVE IS EVERYTHING?

Psychology Loses Its Mind

Week of 3/8: **Watson**, “What is Behaviorism?”
“Are There Any Human Instincts?”
“Personality” [all on ERes]

WHAT IS “OBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE”?

Critical Reflections on the Behaviorist Project

Week of 3/15 : **Kohler**, “A Discussion of Behaviorism,”
“Psychology as a Young Science,”
“A Criticism of Introspection”
“Sensory Organization”
“Behavior”
“Insight” [all on ERes]

HOW THEN SHALL WE BEHAVE?

The Question of Technology

Week of 3/22: **Skinner**, “A Technology of Behavior,”
“Freedom,”
“Dignity” [all on ERes]

Begin *Walden Two*

ARE WE A MISTAKE?

Skinnerian Science and the Psycho-Politics of Utopia

Week of 3/29: **Skinner**, finish *Walden Two*

WHAT IS THE HUMAN DILEMMA?

The Challenge of Being Ourselves

Week of 4/6: **May**, *Psychology and the Human Dilemma*
Chapters 11-14, 2-5

