

# Philosophical and Historical Roots of Psychological Science

## PSYX 240

### Spring 2023

Credit Hours: 3

When: T/Th 9-10:15 AM

Where: SGC 204

Instructor = Dr. Ralph Barnes

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Office: Spalding 235

Office Hours: Tue 12-1; 2:20-2:50; Wed 10-11:30; Thur 1:50-2:50 (or contact me to make an appointment)

Tip: when communicating to me via email, always include your name, course number and section number.

#### **Course Description:**

A historical survey of the philosophical and scientific approaches relevant to the modern field of psychological science. The intellectual development of psychology is explored through an examination of the innovative ideas, theoretical systems, and methodological advances of influential thinkers, along with the social, economic, and historical context in which those ideas, schools of thought, and methodologies formed. The philosophical questions woven through both historical and contemporary issues in psychological science (e.g. What is the nature of the mind? Does free will exist?) will be highlighted to increase understanding of the modern, seemingly disjointed, identity of the field. Pre-requisite: PSYC-101.

#### **Course Objectives**

This course is intended to provide you with A) an introduction and general knowledge of the birth and evolution of psychology as a scientific discipline and B) an introduction to the philosophical foundations regarding the scientific practice of psychology. You will be expected to learn about important events in the history of psychology and ideas that guided past and present research.

#### **Course Materials**

Readings will be provided on Canvas. You will NOT need to purchase a textbook. When it comes to taking the quizzes and exams, you will be responsible for the material in those readings.

Some (not all) lecture notes will be posted on Canvas. I strongly recommend that you add to the notes I provide you, rather than taking notes from scratch. You can print the pdf version of the lecture notes OR download the PPT files to a computer, open the files with

PowerPoint, and print them out 3, 4, or 6 to a page (depending on how much additional note taking you do). If you take notes on a computer in class, you could simply open the PPT files and add to them as appropriate. **I will use Canvas extensively, so make sure to check it frequently for critical announcement, readings, email, etc.**

### **Attendance**

I don't take attendance. The exams will cover lectures, so you will want to attend every class. During the first week of the course, *I strongly encourage you to swap contact information with a few students in class* so that you have someone you can get notes from in case you miss some lectures.

### **Evaluation**

#### **Exams**

Both midterm exams will be taken in the classroom. You must purchase and bring a Green Book (you can buy them at the LCSC bookstore) to all exams. Exams will include essay questions only. All potential questions for each exam will be distributed on Canvas at least 5 days before each exam. Questions will come from lecture primarily, but potentially some questions could come from assigned readings. Only a subset of the potential questions will appear on each exam. Students will not be allowed access to notes or readings during exams.

Questions for a given exam will generally cover material covered prior to the current exam and after the previous exam. **HOWEVER**, answering questions on the current exam might also require that you understand and use material presented prior to the previous exam.

The final exam will be administered during finals week (see date elsewhere in this syllabus). The final exam will not be cumulative and will cover lecture after Exam 2 and prior to the final exam. You will need to bring a Green Book to the final exam.

Makeup exams will be given only for *extenuating* and *documented* circumstances. If you must miss an exam, notify me in advance to schedule a make-up exam (notifying me 3 days ahead of time is better than notifying me 3 minutes ahead of time). Notification of absence should be given prior to the exam, but under no circumstances should it be given any later than the class period following the exam. *If notification of absence is given after the exam, you must have a valid reason for not notifying me prior to the exam in regards to the absence.* A valid reason for missing an exam must be presented and documentation may be required.

#### **Quizzes**

Nine quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. Quizzes will be multiple choice. Each quiz will contain 10 questions and be worth 30 points. I will drop the lowest 2 of your 9 quiz grades. Because you can drop 2 quiz grades, there will be *no make-up quizzes* (even if you missed a quiz for a good reason (e.g. your pet gerbil spontaneously combusted an hour before the quiz and you had to call the fire department)).

Note: the assigned readings for the quizzes will be very helpful if you plan to take the psychology subtest of the GREs. Fancher chapter 3 (in the term paper readings folder) might also come in handy. If you ever think that you might take the psychology subtest of the GRE, make sure that you hold on to those pdf files, and use them to study.

### Term Paper

You will be required to write one term paper of at least 8 pages in length (1" margins, Times New Roman, font 12, double spaced). The page count does not include title page or reference page(s). You will choose a minimum of **three** articles from the "readings for term paper" folder on Canvas. Those articles must come from at least **two** different subfolders (e.g. brain & mind or mind & extended mind). In the paper, you will discuss your thoughts on the three (or more) articles you chose. For each article:

- What is the perspective of the author?
- Do you find the perspective to be appealing? Why/Why not?
- What (if any) are the weaknesses of the perspective?
- How would the author of each article agree/disagree with the authors of the other papers you selected?

### Dates for evaluations, activities and assignments\*:

Date	Evaluation, activity or event
Jan 29	Quiz 1 Goodwin ch02 (Philosophical context)
Feb 5	Quiz 2 S&S ch06 (Darwin)
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Exam 1 (covers lecture up until this point)</b>
Feb 19	Quiz 3 Goodwin ch04 (Wundt)
Feb 26	Quiz 4 Goodwin ch07 (Structuralism)
Mar 5	Quiz 5 F ch09 (Behaviorism)
Mar 12	Quiz 6 S&S ch15 (Modern developments)
Mar 16	<b>Exam 2 (focuses on lecture from E1 to this point)</b>
Mar 19	Quiz 7 Goodwin ch13 (Mental illness)
Mar 26	Quiz 8 S&S ch14 (Psychoanalysis)
Apr 9	Quiz 9 Gardner ch03 (cognitive science)
Apr 17	Term paper due
May 11	<b>Final Exam (focuses on lecture from E2 to this point)</b>

**\*Note: dates are subject to change.**

## Grades

A student can accumulate up to a total of 610 points in this course. The points are distributed as follows:

Course element	Points	% of final grade
Quizzes (7)	210 (7 x 30)	~34.4
Midterms (2)	200 (2 x 100)	~32.8
Final exam	100	~16.4
Term paper	100	~16.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100%</b>

The grade breakdown above is tentative.

A standard grading scale is presented below. However, I reserve the right to apply a curve to the grades at the end of the semester. I will calculate your grade both according to my curve and according to the scale below. For each student, I will apply whichever scale yields the higher grade.

### Standard grading scale:

Grade	Percent	Minimum points needed for grade
A	93+	568
A-	90-92.99	549
B+	87-89.99	531
B	83-86.99	507
B-	80-82.99	488
C+	77-79.99	470
C	73-76.99	446
D+	67-69.99	409
D	63-66.99	385
D-	60-62.99	366
F	<60	

### Electronic devices in class

You are welcome to use a laptop or pad to take notes in class. You are also welcome to audio record the lectures. All phones and other electronic devices should be in silent mode during class. During exams and quizzes phones, laptops, and pads must be stored in backpacks or placed on the floor. For students that are not native English speakers, a language translator can be used during exams and quizzes. However, if you use a smartphone as a language translator, then you must sit in the front row of the classroom during exams.

Date	Event
Jan 17	First day of classes
Jan 23	Last day to register/add online w/out signatures. Last day to pay without late fees
Jan 30	Last day to drop w/out a 'W' grade
Feb 20	President's Day (no classes)
Mar 27-31	Spring Break (no classes)
April 6	Last day to drop with a 'W' grade
Apr 10	Priority Registration for FA 2023 begins
Apr 14	Open registration for FA 2023 begins
May 5	Last day of lectures
May 8-11	Final exam week

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct (which includes such things as cheating and plagiarism) is taken very seriously. Students involved in academic misconduct may receive a failing grade for the entire course. For LCSC policy on plagiarism, you should check out the following URLs: <https://www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/prohibited-conduct> and <https://www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/disciplinary-procedure>

**A note to persons with disabilities.** If you need course accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and office hours are printed above.

**Diversity Vision Statement:** Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, you will be treated and respected as a human being.

### **Athletes**

There is an exception to the rule that there are no quiz make-ups. Athletes will not be penalized for participation in scheduled away games. Athletes may also take make up exams for any exam that conflicts with a regularly scheduled game or meet. See me if you have any questions regarding this.

### **COVID-19**

#### **WEARING MASKS IN CLASSROOMS IS OPTIONAL (as of 2022/08/12)**

Individuals are encouraged to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so but, with the exception of requirements associated with specific internship or clinical experiences, wearing a mask at LC State will not be required.

The details about LCSC's mask policy can be found at <https://www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus>