

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Psychology
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	6
<b>Course Title:</b>	Theories & Systems in Psychology
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 6200
<b>Course Leader:</b>	George Berguno
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	45
Seminar / Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	60
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

The course looks at the history and epistemology of psychological theories with a view to making critical comparisons of four of the main schools of thought: Behaviorism, Cognitive Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology. Seminar topics and discussion include: the mind-body debate, the free-will vs. determinism debate, artificial intelligence, the integration of Western and Eastern psychological theories, cultural assumptions in psychology, etc. Students are expected to have a thorough grounding in basic psychological theories and concepts before taking this course. This course should only be taken by graduating seniors, preferably in their final semester.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 4205, PSY 5200 and PSY 5100

**Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to identify the major issues in psychology and to contrast the differing schools of thought and perspectives in the discipline, and to trace the history and development of psychology from its origins in philosophy and physiology. It explores the impact that psychological paradigms have had on contemporary thought, and examines the contemporary relevance of different psychological paradigms.

**Programme Outcomes:**

6A (i), 6A (ii), 6B (ii), 6C (i), 6C (iii), 6C (iv), 6D (iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Develop an understanding of the evolution of psychological frameworks and ideas
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of the different psychological paradigms
- Appreciate the connections between theories and to be able to critically evaluate these
- Orally present a landmark text in psychology in collaboration with peers
- Gain insight into the ways in which different methodologies are used best when specific phenomena are examined

**Indicative Content:**

- Plato's Epistemology & Aristotle's Psychology
- William James
- The Psychoanalytic Movement
- The Behaviourist Movement
- Existential & Humanistic Traditions
- Cultural-Historical Approaches (Vygotsky)
- The Cognitive Science Paradigm
- Narrative Frameworks in Psychology

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lectures on key topics
- II. Group discussions on required readings
- III. Key Internet Sites
- IV. Emphasis on Primary Texts

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

*Indicative Text(s):*

