

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Theories & Systems in Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 6101
Student Engagement Hours:	160
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Supervision:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	100
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 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:

GEP 4180 Research & Writing II

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:

Psychology: 6Ai, 6Aii, 6Bii, 6Ci, 6Ciii, 6Civ, 6Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- 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 and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

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

Indicative Text(s):

Brennan, J. F. (2017). *Readings in the History and Systems of Psychology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

James, W. (2012). *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Oxford University Press.

Vygotsky, L. (1978). *Mind in Society*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Major	Number of credits and pre-requisites	09.11.2021, Psychology Department	
	Revision – annual update	May 2023	