Thinking About Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior 2e

Charles T. Blair-Broeker
Randal M. Ernst
Methods Domain
Module 02

History and Perspectives
Module 2: History and Perspectives

Modern Psychology’s Nineteenth-Century Roots
Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

• The “father of psychology”
• Founder of modern psychology
• Opened the first psychology lab in 1879
E.B. Titchener (1867-1927)

• Analyzed the intensity, clarity and quality of the parts of consciousness
• Founder of structuralism
Structuralism

• Theory that the structure of conscious experience could be understood by analyzing the basic elements of thoughts and sensations.
How does this work of art reflect the ideas of Wilhelm Wundt?
Gestalt Psychology

• Psychological perspective that emphasized our tendency to integrate pieces of information into meaningful wholes.

• The whole is different from the sum of its parts.
How does this work of art reflect Gestalt Psychology?
Structuralism

Gestalt psychology

1850: The Origin of Species published by Charles Darwin
1875: Telephone invented
1900: Women get the right to vote in the United States
1925: Great Depression
1950: World War II
1975: Civil rights movement
2000: Fall of the Berlin Wall
William James (1842-1910)

- First American psychologist
- Author of the first psychology textbook
- Founder of Functionalism
How does this cartoon illustrate the ideas of William James and his theory of psychology known as Functionalism?
Functionalism

• Theory that emphasized the functions of consciousness or the ways consciousness helps people adapt to their environment
I think I have resolved your conflict. Consciously, you know the war is a costly, unsustainable blunder. But buried deep in your id is the primordial fear that your guzzling SUV might run out of gas.

YES! YE- Argghh, Hlawkk... Heimlich! Heimlich!
Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

- Founder of the psychoanalytic perspective
- Believed that abnormal behavior originated from unconscious drives and conflicts
Psychoanalysis

• Theory of personality and therapeutic technique that attributes our thoughts and actions to unconscious motives and conflicts
Freud’s Influence

• Influence on “pop culture”
  – Freudian slips
  – Anal-retentive

• Influence on psychology
  – Psychodynamic theory
  – Unconscious thoughts
  – Significance of childhood experiences
"I don't know about you, but that bell's starting to put me off my food!"
Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936)

- Russian Physiologist
- Studied learning in animals
- Emphasized the study of observable behaviors
John B. Watson (1878-1958)

- Founder of behaviorism
- Studied only observable and objectively described acts
- Emphasized objective and scientific methodology
Behaviorism

• The theory that psychology should only study observable behaviors, not mental processes.

• What study is Watson most famous for?
B.F. Skinner (1904-1990)

• American psychologist whose brand of behaviorism focused on the role of responses in learning.
• Focused on learning through rewards and observation
• Behaviorist
Humanistic Psychology

• School of thought that focuses on the study of conscious experience, the individual’s freedom to choose, and the capacity for personal growth.

• Stressed the study of conscious experience and an individual’s free will.

• Healthy individuals strive to reach their potential.
Carl Rogers/Abraham Maslow

- Prominent Humanists
- Rejected idea that behavior is controlled by rewards and punishments
- Stressed free will in decision making
Jean Piaget

• Developmental and cognitive psychologist known for his studies of children’s thought processes
• Interested in how thinking develops
Piaget's Conservation Task

I

A

B

C

II

A

B

C
Module 2: History and Perspective

Psychology’s American Groundbreakers
G. Stanley Hall

- First American with a doctorate in psychology
- Open the first psychology lab in U.S. at John Hopkins University
- First president of the APA
Mary Whiton Calkins

- First woman to complete the requirements for a Ph.D. in psychology
- President of the APA in 1905
Margaret Floy Washburn

• First woman to receive a Ph.D. in psychology in the U.S.
Francis Cecil Sumner

• First African-American to receive a Ph.D. in psychology
Kenneth Clark/Mamie Philips Clark

- Educational psychologists
- Studied institutionalized racism
- Studies were cited in “Brown v Board of Education”
Inex Beverly Prosser

- First African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in psychology
Module 2: History and Perspectives

Six Contemporary Psychological Perspectives
Psychological Perspectives

• Method of classifying a collection of ideas
• Also called “schools of thought”
• Also called “psychological approaches”
• To view behavior from a particular perspective
Cognitive Perspective

- School of thought that focuses on how people think – how we take in, process, store, and retrieve information
- Focus: On how people think and process information
- Behavior is explained by how a person interprets the situation
The Origin of Species published by Charles Darwin
Telephone invented
Women get the right to vote in the United States
Women's Right Movement
Great Depression
World War II
Civil rights movement
Fall of the Berlin Wall
Yeah, Mom, I KNOW... you have eyes on the back of your head. It's kind of a family trait.
Biological Perspective

- School of thought that focuses on the physical structures and substances underlying a particular behavior, thought, or emotion
- Focus: How our biological structures and substances underlie a given behavior, thought, or emotion
- Behavior is explained by brain chemistry, genetics, glands, etc.
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<td>eventually produce helping behavior.</td>
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Did you know in some cultures it’s considered rude to lick your plate?
Social-Cultural Perspective

• School of thought that focuses on how thinking or behavior changes in different contexts or situations

• Focus: How thinking and behavior change depending on the setting or situation

• Behavior is explained by the influence of other people present
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Behavioral Perspective

- Focus: How we learn through rewards, punishments, and observation
- Behavior is explained by previous learning
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How does this photograph illustrate the Humanistic approach?
Humanistic Perspective

• Focus: How healthy people strive to reach their full potential

• Behavior is explained as being motivated by satisfying needs (safety, hunger, thirst, etc.), with the goal of reaching one’s full potential once basic needs are met.
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Psychodynamic Perspective

• Focus: How behavior is affected by unconscious drives and conflicts
• Behavior is explained through unconscious motivation and unresolved inner conflicts from one’s childhood.
• Modern version of psychoanalytic perspective.
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Module 2: History and Perspectives

Psychology in the Twenty-First Century
Behavior Genetics

• School of thought that focuses on how much our genes and our environment influence our individual differences
• Focus: How behavior is affected by genes and the environment
• Combines biology and behaviorism
• Emphasis on the importance of both genetic and environmental factors on behavior
OF COURSE SOME SPECIES HAVE ADAPTED BETTER TO GLOBAL WARMING THAN OTHERS...
Evolutionary Psychology

• Combines aspects of biological, psychological, and social perspectives
• Behavior is explained by how the behavior may have helped our ancestors survive long enough to reproduce successfully.
Positive Psychology

• Movement that focuses on the study of optimal human functioning and the factors that allow individuals and communities to thrive

• Focus: To study and promote optimal human functioning

• Martin E.P. Seligman is a major advocate

• Should promote building positive qualities of people
History of Psychology

1879  Wilhelm Wundt opens the first psychology laboratory in Leipzig, Germany.

1890  William James publishes the first psychology textbook, *Principles of Psychology.*

1892  G. Stanley Hall founds the American Psychological Association (APA). E. B. Titchener introduces structuralism.

1899  Sigmund Freud publishes his psychoanalytic views in *The Interpretation of Dreams.*

1905  Mary Whiton Calkins becomes the first woman to be president of the APA. Alfred Binet develops the first intelligence test.

1906  Ivan Pavlov publishes his results on learning by association.

1908  Margaret Floy Washburn becomes the first woman to receive a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in psychology.
History of Psychology

1913  John B. Watson publishes “Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It.”

1920  Francis Cecil Sumner becomes the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree in psychology.

1926  Jean Piaget publishes *The Language and Thought of the Child*.

1933  Inez Beverly Prosser becomes the first African-American woman to earn a doctoral degree in psychology.

1938  B. F. Skinner promotes behaviorism, publishing *The Behavior of Organisms*.

1939  Kenneth Clark and Mamie Phipps Clark begin work that will be cited by the U.S. Supreme Court 1954 decision ending racial segregation in public schools.

1945  Karen Horney challenges the male bias in Freud's psychoanalytic theory and proposes a social-cultural approach.
History of Psychology

1950  Erik Erikson publishes *Childhood and Society*, outlining stages of psychosocial development.

1954  Abraham Maslow presents the humanistic perspective. Gordon Allport publishes *The Nature of Prejudice*.

1961  Albert Bandura stresses the importance of imitation in learning, proposing a social-learning theory.

1964  Roger Sperry demonstrates the importance of the brain in behavior with split-brain research.

1969  John Berry calls attention to the importance of cross-cultural research in psychology.


1977  Judith Rodin shows the importance of perceived control.
The End
Name of Concept

• Use this slide to add a concept to the presentation
Name of Concept

Use this slide to add a table, chart, clip art, picture, diagram, or video clip. Delete this box when finished