**September 11, 2017**

**Reading considered today:**

Course Outline

Moghaddam, Chapters 1 and 2

**Introductory Comments:**

Introductions

Course Director and Tutorial Leader

Ron Sheese, Niloufar Eshgi

Textbooks

Fathali Moghaddam’s *Great ideas in Psychology*

Antonio Damasio’s *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, sorrow, and the feeling brain*

Trevor Butt’s *Understanding people*

Websites

<http://www.ron-sheese.com>

<http://psyc1010.freeforums.net/>

Course format

Reading the text chapters

Ron’s comments on the chapters

Small-group Discussion

Reading responses

Research proposal (annotated bibliography) assignment

Quizzes and examinations

Course purposes

Introduce Psychology

Introduce North American ideas/methods

Discussion/Debate and memorization

Plagiarism and cheating

Classroom expectations

Participation

Electronics

About Psychology

About Ron

About Niloufar

Course overview and goals (see Course Outline on website)

About Moghaddam’s book

Encyclopedia of names/dates/terms *vs.* 19 great ideas

Unexplained examples in Chapter 1

American Psychology

World context

Cultural and historical context

A critical introduction

Analysis

Criticism and evaluation

Procedural questions?

**Small-group discussion:**

Form groups of four and discuss items on handout. One person should record the gist of the comments made in the group and hand in these minutes at the end of the discussion.

Posting a response to one of the discussion questions

**Outline of comments on Chapters 1 and 2 of Moghaddam’s book:**

Moghaddam’s Great Ideas:

Influence perceptions

The unconscious and attachment

Have useful applications

IQ and MMPI

Stimulate research

Falsifiability – “what evidence would be needed for an idea to be disproved”

Persist over time

Ego and [**Freudian slip**](http://psychology.about.com/od/sigmundfreud/f/freudian-slip.htm)

Reconstruction of ideas

The discipline of Psychology

Causal or normative science (M p7)

Content

Psychological phenomena

Disciplinary knowledge

Constructs

Variable, stimulus, response, IV, DV

Personality, Intelligence, learning disability

Methods

Atomistic, individualistic, apolitical

Experiments

**Truth**, "discover" causes (M p8)

Observation, survey, interview, cases, ...

**Interpretation**, description

Approaches (orientations, schools)

Structuralism, Behaviourism, Psychoanalysis, Gestalt, Cognitive, ...

(M p8, Table 1)

Purposes

Basic research science

Healing practice

Social practice

Predict and control behaviour - understand, explain, change

Metapsychology (analysis of Psychology)

Phenomena, discipline, self-reflection

Psychology based in history and culture

Definition(s) of Psychology

Study of the mind

Study of behaviour

Science of thinking and activity, mental life and overt behavior (M p6)

Scientific study of the mind and behaviour of humans and animals

Science which seeks to describe and explain the behaviour and

experience of organisms

Reflections on the definitions

Mind and behaviour

Describe and explain

Causes *or* regularities (patterns)

Mind: physiology *or* meaning systems

Determinism *or* contextual agency

Moghaddam's degrees of freedom

Physiology and society/culture as alternatives

[**Reductionism**](http://www.holah.co.uk/page/reductionism/)

Organisms

Animals

Individuals

Science

Psychology's scientific credentials

Wundt 1889

Method rather than facts

Public and replicable

Causal and normative science

Causal - experiments, [**laws**](http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/scientific-experiments/10-scientific-laws-theories2.htm#page=0), natural sciences

Hard vs. soft

Fechner, Weber example – low df

Normative (interpretive)

How things ought (seem) to be

Regularities in thought and action related to culture

Example of boys and girls in school – high df

[**Zaolian**](http://www.yorku.ca/rsheese2/1010/zaolian.pdf) **早恋**

Models rather than laws

“Carriers” of meaning systems and cultures

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| --- | --- |
| images-2 | |
| [**Newsweek**](http://www.newsweek.com/its-not-about-confederate-flag-its-about-what-flag-means-347084) and [**Guardian**](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/03/south-flag-confederate-pride-hatred-racists) links regarding meaning  systems and the Confederate flag | |

Discovery and construction

Data and Theory

All scientific work

Working in and working out

Moghaddam's metapsychology

Contextual nature

Degrees of freedom

Working in and working out

**Psychology Laboratories**

Examples

Cause and effect

Variables

Validity and reliability