**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