**September 13, 2017**

1. Suppose you were to become a Psychologist studying thinking, emotion or some other broad psychological phenomenon. Do you think your preference would be to study this phenomenon by “working in”, or would you prefer to study it by “working out”? Do you think your preference would be to take a causal science approach to studying the phenomenon, or would you prefer to take a normative science approach? Explain your reasons.

2. Give an example of a situation in which you have many, many degrees of freedom, but despite all the possibilities, you always act in more or less the same way whenever you are in this situation. What is the reason that you do not choose any of the other possible ways to act? Is your reason related to a culture or “meaning system”? Explain.

3. Moghaddam introduces the idea of “carriers” within meaning systems as a suggestion for why certain behaviour patterns might occur or persist over time (even when people have considerable degrees of freedom about how to behave). Meaning systems can often be summarized in terms of certain beliefs and values, and these are sometimes symbolized by carriers. Propose an example of something you think might constitute a meaning system and an example of a carrier of this meaning system.

4. Some Psychologists believe that eventually it will be possible to explain all psychological phenomena in terms of biology (that Psychology will be “reduced” to Biology). Are you inclined to agree with this position, or do you think it will never be possible to explain Psychology on the basis of Biology alone? Explain your reasons.

5. What would it mean to say that you had a bathroom scale that was extremely ***reliable*** but not ***valid***?

-- Could you have a scale that was valid but not reliable? Why or why not?

-- Moghaddam says that a laboratory study might have good reliability and good *internal* validity but still lack *external* validity. What does he mean by this?

-- Could the same be said for an interview or survey? Explain

6. Suppose you were a Psychologist and decided to study the specific emotion of jealousy. What are some possible ways that you might “operationalize” the concept of jealousy?

-- If you chose to do an experiment on jealousy, what are some independent and dependent variables that you might use in your study?

-- Are there any variables that might have to be controlled?

-- Do you think that a laboratory *experiment* would be the best method for studying jealousy, or do you think *observation* or *interviews* might be better? Explain.

7. A researcher is interested in depression and the effectiveness of various treatments for depression. She decides to randomly assign each of 30 people seeking assistance with depression to one of three treatments -- behaviour modification, cognitive behavioural therapy, or rational-emotive therapy. Prior to treatment she interviews each person and rates the severity of the depression on a scale from one to ten. She repeats the interview and rating after 12 weeks of treatment. What are the relevant variables in this study? Which ones are independent and which are dependent? Are there variables that will have to be controlled in this study? What are they and how might they be controlled?  Is this an example of cause and effect research, or is it normative research?

8. Some early serial learning and associative learning experiments were described in today’s class. Do you think the external validity of these types of experiments is likely to be strong or will it be weak? Explain your choice.

9. Shakespeare was not a psychologist, but he was a keen observer of human behaviour. He has Hamlet say in one scene, “there is nothing eithergoodorbad*,* butthinking makes it so.” Does Shakespeare, through Hamlet in this case, seem to be taking a *causal science* view or a *normative science* view of life?