York University
Winter Term 2017
Graduate Program in Psychology
Historical & Theoretical Foundations of Contemporary Psychology B
6030 3.0 (W)
Course Director: Dr. Thomas Teo

Time: Thursday 11:30 - 14:30
Room: 207 BSB
Office: 231 BSB
Phone: 416 736-5115 # 40553
E-mail: tteo@yorku.ca
Web Page: http://yorku.academia.edu/ThomasTeo

Psychological humanities: Critical-theoretical investigations

“The logic of the human sciences is a logic of the question” (Gadamer, 1960/1997, p. 370).

Tentative Course Outline and Reading List

January 5, 2017:
1. Introduction


January 12, 2017:
2. What is history good for?


Ontological reflections

January 19, 2017:
3. What is the status of the discipline of psychology?


January 26, 2017:
4. What is a human?


February 2, 2017:
5. What kinds are psychological objects, concepts, and theories?


**Epistemological reflections**

February 9, 2017:
6. What are the consequences of naïve empiricism in psychology?


February 16, 2017:
7. Do gender and other social characteristics influence knowledge?

February 23: Reading week

March 2, 2017:
8. What does culture add to knowledge?


*Ethical-political, ethical-practical, and epistemological-ethical reflections*

March 9, 2017: Class cancelled due to academic meeting

March 16, 2017:
9. What are the influences of money and power in psychology?


March 23, 2017:
10. Should psychology care about justice?


March 30, 2017:
11. *Is psychology about problem-making or problem-solving?*


**Evaluation**

**Regular attendance and participation**

- There are no exams in this course.
- In order to ensure that the material has been reflected upon adequately, regular attendance and participation is necessary.
- If more than 3 meetings in the term are missed the student receives an automatic failing grade for Participation and Attendance.
- Participation counts towards **15%** of the grade.

**Presentation in class**

- The duration of the presentation (and leading a class discussion) for each student should be approximately 30 (25-35) minutes (longer if a video is shown).
- Assessment of the presentation by the whole group is taken into account (peer evaluation). Written assessments by class include sections on "Strengths," "Suggestions for Improvement," and a "Grade."
- The presentation must go beyond class reading material and must include additional sources. It can **take the student’s area of specialization into account**. The presentation may include audiovisual material and class discussions should involve specific questions derived from the reading material.
- Presentations can be done individually or as a group effort.
- PowerPoint (Keynote, or a similar presentation software) is recommended.
- Provide an electronic copy of your PowerPoint or Keynote presentation at least 12 hours before your presentation (send to instructor via e-mail).
- List all sources at the end of the PowerPoint or Keynote presentation.
- The presentation (and leading a class discussion) counts towards **25%** of the grade.
• Averaged grades and feedback are provided usually one week after the presentation.
• Grading for each presentation: Instructor: 50%. Peers: 50%.
• Letter grades will be used (A+, A, A-, B+, etc.) which are converted into numbers (A+ = 9, A = 8, A- = 7, etc.) which are averaged (for instance, A- ranges from 6.5 to 7.49).

Paper

• The written elaboration of the presentation in the form of a manuscript is required.
• The paper must be written in APA format and have a length of about 18 pages including references. To be precise: **4000-5000 words without references!**
• References must be drawn from at least 15 different academic sources.
• The paper must have a psychological perspective!
• The deadline for the paper is April 13, 2017. There will be deductions for late submissions. Deductions: Each day late will count as a deduction of 0.15 for the first two days, 0.25 for the next two days, 0.35 for the next two days, etc. This means if you receive an average A for the paper and you are two days late you would receive: 8 – 0.30 = 7.7 (which is still an A).
• All papers must be sent as an e-mail attachment to the instructor [criterion for date of submission].
• Organization: 1. Title page (p. 1): Title of paper, name, student number; course title; term). 2. Abstract (p. 2) (150 - 200 words). 3. Paper and 4. References (pp. 3 – 18): [Start a new page for the reference section]. Typing: Papers should be typed in Times New Roman. Use a 12-point font and double spacing for the entire manuscript. Use 1-inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom of the page. The text is to be left-aligned and not right-justified. Proofread the paper. Staple finished manuscript]. More information on guidelines for the paper will be provided in one of the class meetings.
• The paper represents 35% of the grade.
• Grading: Letter grades.

Comments

For the written comments (response to the readings) address all 3 readings.
• 800 words - use the word count function in your word processing program and list the number of words at the end of the comment. Do not count headings, references, and direct quotes!
• Think about the question! Identify the most significant issues in the texts and respond to them. Or respond to the main arguments in the articles.
• A comment needs to demonstrate that the complete paper has been read.
• A comment should be evaluative, provide arguments, and express a viewpoint. It contains an assessment of the text (see *American Psychologist* for advanced examples).
• Respond to essential issues of the reading material! Do not summarize material. Referencing of chosen text is not required -- but referencing is necessary if you use additional sources.
• Comments are due on each Tuesday at 13:00 and must be sent as 1 attachment to my e-mail address (see above) (or in the main text). Identify texts.
• Write your name at the top of the comments!
• Write 6030 in the "subject" heading of the e-mail.
• There will be deductions for late submissions and comments received on Tuesday after 18:00 will not be accepted anymore (Exception: documented medical reasons).
• The first comments can be submitted on Tuesday, January 10 at 13:00 for the Wednesday, January 12 meeting. Comments are usually returned via email.
• It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that all comments were received back.
• If the day of a comment submission falls on a holiday, comments should be submitted earlier - if student cannot submit on a holiday.
• Comments represent 25% of the grade.
• Grading: Each weekly comment will receive a qualitative grade: Outstanding (exceptional) = A+; excellent = A; Very good = A-; Good = B+; etc. These qualitative comments are converted into numbers (A+ = 9, A = 8, A- = 7, etc.) and averaged.
• For the day of one’s own presentation, no comments are accepted!
• You need to submit a total of 5 comments! If you submit more than 5 comments, only the best 5 comments will be used in the final grade.