

Introduction to Psychology

HS 303

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- Psychology is a relatively young discipline
- Split off from Philosophy
- Western Philosophy
- Chinese Philosophy
- Indian Philosophy

Questions in Philosophy

- Meaning of Life
- Morality
- Emotion
- Self
- Autonomy

- Social Sciences

Economics, Political Science, Sociology

- Sociology

social class, social structure, social institutions.

- The unit of analysis in Psychology is the individual

“ The subject matter of psychology is self evident as it is elusive”

Asch

“Innermost Nature”

*“it attempts to provide a body of theory
and fact about man that is scientific”*

Asch

History of the First Experiments

- *Wilhelm Wundt* Leipzig 1879
first psychology laboratory
- *Ebbinghaus* 1885 '*On Memory*' *Forgetting Curve*
- *Binet* 1889 Psych Lab at the Sorbonne Fr
- 1898 *Thorndike* 'Law of Effect'
- 1900 *Freud* '*Interpretation of Dreams*'
- 1905 *Pavlov* *Conditioning in animals*

- Structuralism

elements of experience

scent of a rose

sound of a metronome

Introspection and Reaction Time
Experiments

- Functionalism

What does the mind do?

1883 Johns Hopkins Laboratory

William James at Harvard

Adaptive function of humans

Learning

Memory

Problem Solving

'Principles of Psychology' 1890

- Gestalt

Berlin School 1912

Ability to acquire meaningful perception

Form, configuration

Pattern of elements



- Behaviorism

Behavior is observable

Human and Animal behavior

Watson – Johns Hopkins

Thorndike

Skinner

- Psychoanalysis

Freud 1890s

1900 '*Interpretation of Dreams*'

- Crossroads between Philosophy and Medicine
- APA 1892

Fields of Psychology

- Biopsychology
- Clinical
- Social
- Industrial Psychology and Organizational Behavior
- Cognitive
- Health

What do Psychologists do ?

- Academician
- Practitioner

Practioner

- Clinical
- Counseling
- Educational Psychologist
- Industrial Organizational
- Sports
- Social Work

Future

Neuropsychology

Sports

Environmental Psychology

Methods

- Formulating Hypotheses and Theories

Inspiration from previous research

Based on personal observation

- Collect Data

- The Observational Method

Researcher observes people and records measurements or impressions of their behavior

Archival Analysis

Limits of the Observational Method

- The Correlational Method
 - to understand relationships between variables and to be able to predict when different kinds of social behavior will occur
 - this method involves systematically measuring two variables and the relationship between them

- Surveys

- attitudes, behavior
- validity of survey data depends on using representative samples
- sampling errors

1936 presidential poll

Limits

- The Experimental Method

Answering causal questions

2 conditions identical except for the IV,
where the researcher randomly assigns
participants to the conditions

- involves direct intervention from the
researcher

- Independent variable – variable that is manipulated by the researcher to test if it has an impact on another variable/s
- Dependent variable- is the variable that is measured to check for the impact of the manipulated IV

- Internal Validity : high degree of control over all extraneous variables other than the IV – ensured through random assignment of participants.
- External Validity: the extent to which the results of the study can be generalized to other people and other situations

Basic Dilemma

Field Experiments: experiments in their natural setting

Trade Off between internal and external validity

Replication in both lab and field settings

- Cross cultural research

how culturally dependent a psychological process is

not impose one's cultural interpretation on another culture

Ethical Issues

- Informed Consent
- Debriefing
- IRB: Institutional Review Board
Human subjects