Introduction to Psychology

HS 303 Mrinmoyi Kulkarni 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

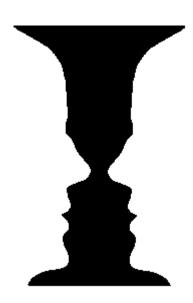
- Wilhelm Wundt Leipzig 1879
 first psychology laboratory
- Ebbinghaus 1885 'On Memory' Forgetting Curve
- Binet 1889 Psych Lab at the Sorbonne Fr
- 1898 Thorndike 'Law of Effect'
- 1900 Freud 'Interpretation of Dreams'
- 1905 Pavlov Conditioning in animals

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'

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
- Practioner

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 errors1936 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