Cognition: Methods and Models

PSYC 2040

L3: Eugenics, psychology, & intelligence testing

Part 1

logistics: final project groups!

Cognition in Film

- Uma and Elana
- Nick S. And Meredith

Gamifying Cognition

- Ella and Yanevith

Minute Cognition

- Nick W. And Dyana

Podcast Pondering

- Liliana and Natalie

Data Dive

- Jess and Grace

how to get the most out of a group project

- reflect on your own strengths and weaknesses

- work on an accountability contract

- meet in person whenever possible (30 minutes - 1 hour)
  - have a shared google doc for meeting notes
  - have a meeting agenda and pre-assigned tasks
  - meet 1-2 weeks before milestone deadlines to assign tasks/roles
  - meet on the day of submission for final touches
  - collaborate & engage; don't divide and conquer!

- be honest in your self and peer assessments

- communicate effectively and often, especially when things are not going well or you are struggling

logistics: final project milestone #1

- due Feb 12, 2023 (midnight)

- thoroughly read the google document for your project

- fill out the pre-collaboration self-assessment individually

- meet with your project partner and discuss your reflections

- create an accountability contract

- think about how this project aligns with your goals for the class (L0)

- submit individually on Canvas

logistics: office hours

- My office hours (Kanbar 217):
  - Tuesday, 9-11 AM
  - Tuesday, 3-4 PM
  - Thursday, 9-10 AM
  - Friday, 11-1 PM
- Matt's office hours (Kanbar 200)
  - Monday, 7-8 PM
  - Wednesday, 7-8 PM
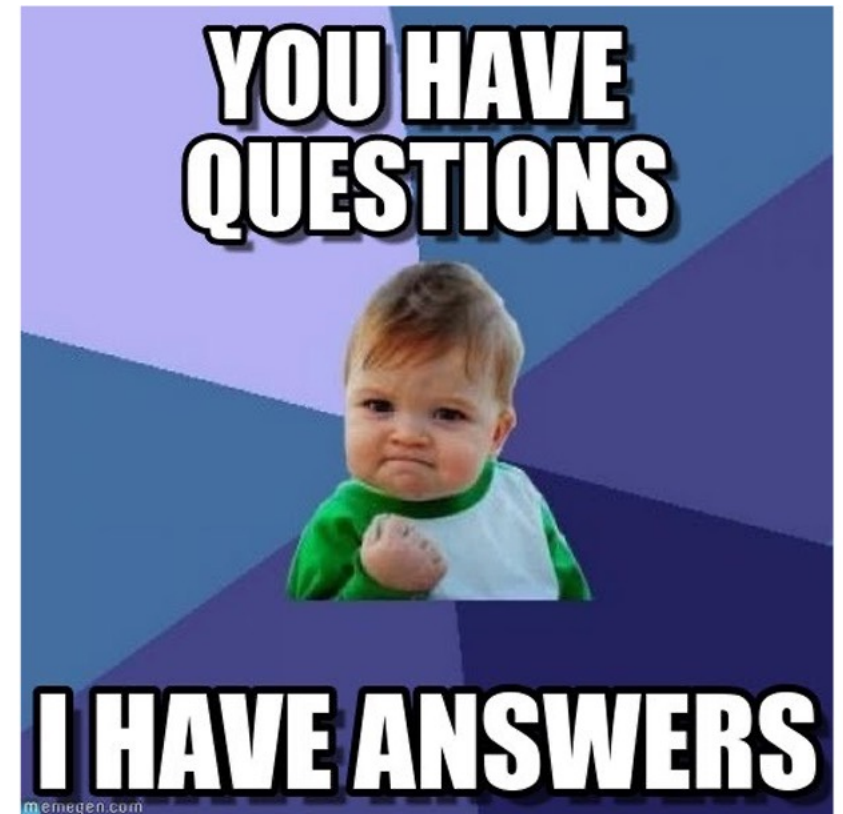
recap: Feb 2, 2023

- what we covered:
    - L2: Mental imagery
    - the imagery debate, newer work

- your to-dos were:
    - *complete:* L2 quiz + writing assignments
    - *read:* L3 (Eugenics + Intelligence Testing chapters)

Is the 5 minute time limit too short for weekly quizzes?

Yes

No

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How much time (in minutes) would you like for completing the weekly quizzes? Enter a number between 5 and 10.
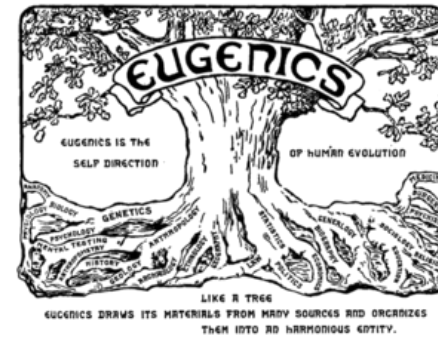
How are you feeling about the class (lectures, assignments, etc.) so far?

experiences with the VVIQ?

today's agenda

- initial part:
  - eugenics overview
  - the movement
  - psychology and eugenics

- later part:
  - project milestones overview
  - meeting your project partner
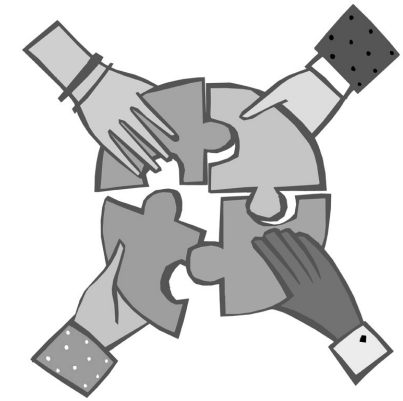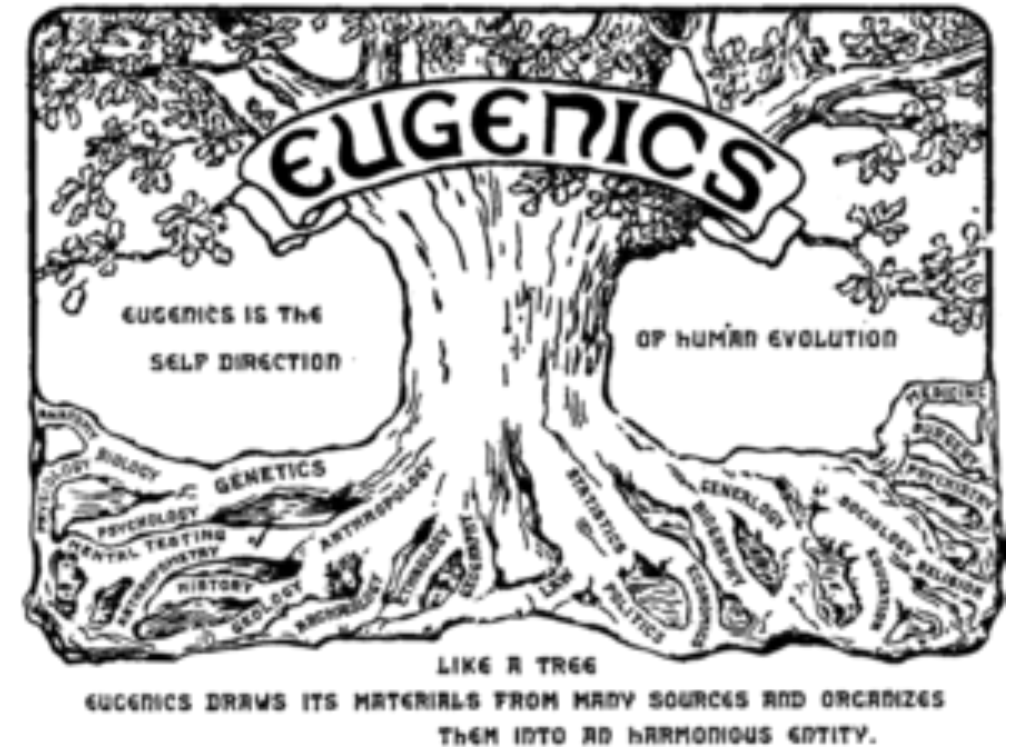
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what is eugenics?

- an idea to "improve" society through the selective breeding of humans

- a widespread, worldwide movement that perpetuated and institutionalized racism and white supremacy

- led to many human rights violations

EUGENICS

EUGENICS IS THE SELF DIRECTION   OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

LIKE A TREE
EUGENICS DRAWS ITS MATERIALS FROM MANY SOURCES AND ORGANIZES THEM INTO AN HARMONIOUS ENTITY.

why are we talking about this?

- many early psychologists were interested in cognitive abilities *because* they were interested in or part of the eugenics movement

- as we embark on a course that describes the history of cognitive research, it would be irresponsible to pretend as if cognitive and/or psychological research did not have serious, problematic, long-term ramifications on society

- to move forward, we must acknowledge this past and learn from it

Galton and eugenics

- Galton's explorations into mental imagery had hidden motives

- "The larger object of my inquiry is to elicit facts that shall define the natural varieties of mental disposition in the two sexes and in different races, and afford trustworthy data as to the relative frequency with which different faculties are inherited in different degrees"
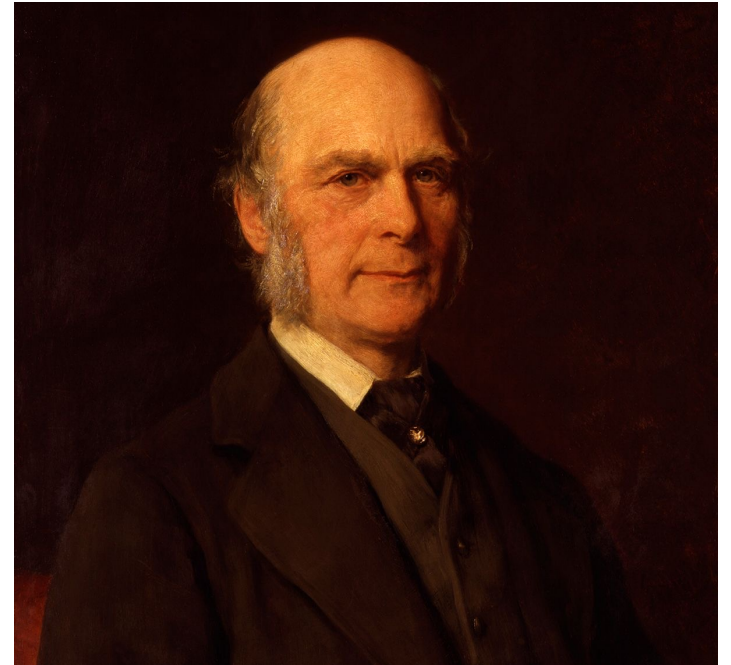
think, pair, and share

- we'll now watch a video about Galton's role in the eugenics movement
- think about what you found most surprising or interesting or depressing
- think [3 minutes]: make notes (individually)
- pair [3 minutes]: discuss together
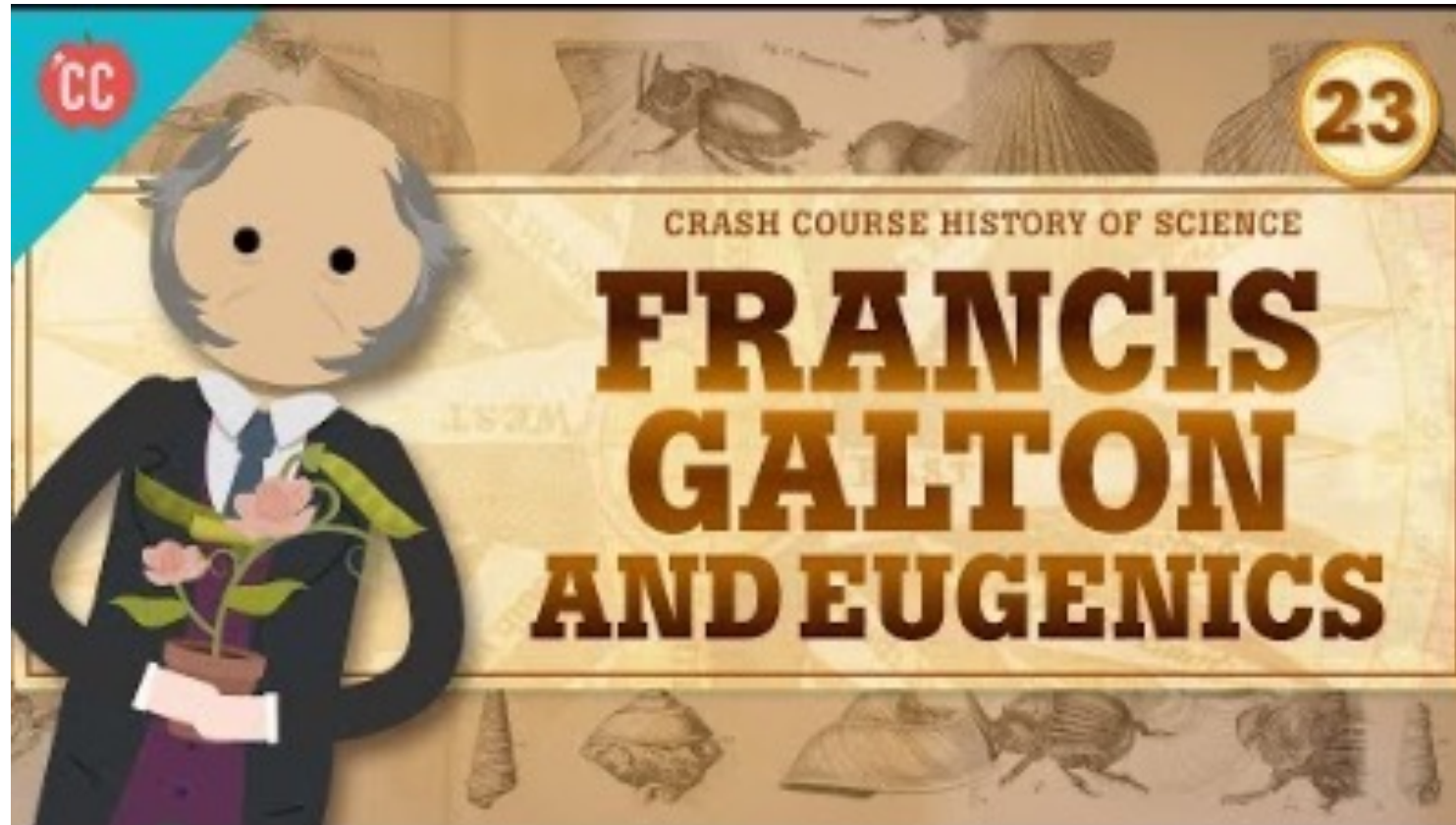- share [whoever's birthday is earlier in the year]

Galton and eugenics

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broader negative consequences

- Nazi propaganda and war crimes
- forced sterilization and institutionalization
- racial segregation and anti-miscegenation
- IQ/standardized testing, gifted school programs
- employment selection procedures

eugenics and psychology

- Galton's anthropometric lab
- legitimizing the study of people's abilities
  - positive and negative eugenics
- Karl Pearson (Galton's student)
- known for inventing the correlation coefficient (Pearson's *r*) and Annals of Eugenics (now called Annals of Human Genetics)

Francis Galton's First Anthropometric Laboratory at the International Health Exhibition, South Kensington, 1884–5.

eugenics and psychology

- The American Psychological Association (APA) and other prominent psychological organizations (e.g., APS) had several prominent eugenicists on their boards, as members, and even had/have awards that are named after them
  - E.L. Thorndike Career Achievement Award (renamed)
  - Granville Stanley Hall Award (renamed)
- APA recently issued an apology for its complicity in perpetuating racism

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ARTICLE

Eugenics and its evolution in the history of western psychology: A critical archival review

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Abstract
Since its inception Western academic psychology has been influenced by and closely affiliated with eugenics, defined by its originators as the "science of racial betterment." The role of eugenics has been minimally acknowledged in historical accounts of Western psychology, although it was fundamental to the establishment of empirical psychology methods as well as its applied theories, specifically behaviorism. The continued influence of eugenics in Western psychology, noted in this article, is traced to biologizing human differences while minimizing the role of social context as well as to dividing individuals into groups according to their supposedly innate fitness levels (such as intelligence and optimism). The impact of eugenics on the practice of psychotherapy is highlighted.

activity: a **timeline** of psychology's contribution to inequality and racism

- in groups, explore the timeline at https://www.apa.org/about/apa/addressing-racism/historical-chronology
  - group 1: 1850–1925
  - group 2: 1925–1950
  - group 3: 1951–1975
  - group 4: 1975–2020
- identify 3-5 events that you thought were interesting during this period
- come back and debrief

ONLY *HEALTHY* SEED MUST BE SOWN!

CHECK THE SEEDS OF HEREDITARY DISEASE AND UNFITNESS BY EUGENICS

psychology's contributions

- ideas and theories about eugenics and/or gender/racial differences of prominent psychologists were published in "scientific" journals and therefore legitimized

- psychologists also contributed to the development of tests, tools, and methods to "measure" these differences, which further legitimized eugenics as a science

- these ideas and tests were codified in laws and policies that created a system of oppression that we are still navigating

- as we discuss more theoretical ideas about cognition going forward, it is important to keep in mind that our motivations may not align with those who came before us, and we must continue to question why we study what we study

other thoughts?

today's agenda

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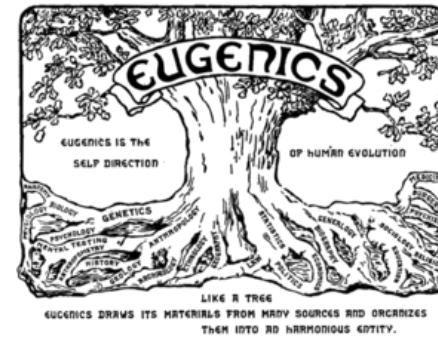
- later part:
  - project milestones overview
  - meeting your project partner

project **milestones** overview

milestone #1: project & partner selection	milestone #2: instance of cognition	milestone #3: article QALMRI	milestone #4: project plan/outline	milestone #5: project first draft	milestone #6: final submission
Feb 12	Feb 19	Mar 5	Apr 2	Apr 30	May 14

final project milestone #1

- due Feb 12, 2023 (midnight)
- thoroughly read the google document for your project
- fill out the pre-collaboration self-assessment individually
- meet with your project partner and discuss your reflections
- create an accountability contract
- think about how this project aligns with your goals for the class (L0)
- submit individually on Canvas

final project milestone #2

- due Feb 19, 2023 (midnight)
- thoroughly read the google document for your project
- come up with a plan, assign tasks and sub-tasks, and regroup
- jointly select an instance of cognition
  - Minute Cognition & Gamifying Cognition : instance only
  - Data Dive: instance only (but limited to 4 potential datasets, details in google doc)
  - Cognition in Film + Podcast Pondering: instance + film/podcast
- find and read one review article on that instance of cognition
  - Beth Hoppe will come to class on Feb 14 with more guidance on this
  - but you can (and should) get started before this
- fill out self/peer assessment: major discrepancies in these can affect your grade
- submit individually on Canvas

start planning now!

- find your project partner and discuss your schedules

- create a shared google folder + doc to keep track of each meeting/plans

- lay out a plan for when/where you'll meet for milestones #1 and #2

- discuss
  - what needs to be done before you meet next
  - what you'll do during the meeting
  - what you hope to achieve at the end of each meeting

- Matt and I will come around and chat with you

next class

- **before** class:
  - *complete:* L3 (Eugenics + Intelligence Testing chapters)
  - *post:* L3 conceptual question
  - *redo:* L2 quiz (if you'd like to)
  - *schedule meeting with project partner*: project milestone #1
  - *look at:* L3 writing assignments
- **during** class:
  - intelligence testing