Bemidji State University

PSY 4487: History and Systems of Psychology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 4
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course examines contemporary issues and theories in psychology and their historical developments. It is a survey of the philosophical, physiological, methodical, and historical origins of psychology, and how each influenced each other, the field, and science in general over time. The goal of the course is to review the major approaches within the field, looking more in depth at how each emerged and emphasizing the driving rationale and context. Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in the major.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/01/2024 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Neuroscience
2. Artificial Intelligence
3. Ethics
4. History & Systems of Psychology
5. Epistemology & the Philosophy of Science
6. The Mind-Body Problem
7. Determinism & Free Will
8. A History of Mental Illness: Perceived Determinants, Treatments, and Reforms
9. Behaviorism
10. Early German Systems of Psychology
11. Evolution & its Implications for Psychology
12. Functionalism & Applied Psychology
13. Gestalt Psychology
14. Humanism & Existentialism
15. Psychoanalysis
16. Cognitive Psychology
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. discuss the significant historical developments in applied and experimental psychology, including approaches to mental health assessment and treatment, individual differences, culture, and methodology through the ages.

2. examine the philosophical issues that have shaped psychological thought and the philosophy of science over the ages, including issues of epistemology, determinism, causation, the mind-body problem, and the nature of the self.

3. compare and contrast historical contexts and achievements of notable thinkers in philosophy, science, and psychology.

4. apply the method of historiography and understand its issues, specifically as related to the history of science in general and the history of psychology in particular.

5. critique the ethical pursuit of knowledge and applications within psychology across its history.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted