Psychology 974

Advanced Seminar in the History of Psychology

Spring 2000

Course Syllabus

Class hours: T 2-5.	Professor: Hans Pols
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Course web-page: http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~pols

This course is not focused on presenting a basic set of historical facts related to the growth of psychology as a discipline and as a science. Students are expected to have a minimal background in the history of psychology already. Instead, this course aims to acquaint students with a number of themes that have been explored recently within science studies that are relevant to the history of psychology (among them: investigative practices and laboratories; the standardization of laboratory animals; the ways in which psychology "makes up people"), and to give an overview of a variety of historical approaches (among them: the history of the culture of consumption, the history of the self, the history of the emotions).

One of the most important skills to be acquired in graduate school is selective reading. It is impossible to read everything that is required for graduate courses (and this becomes even worse after finishing course work); it is therefore of the utmost importance to develop strategic reading skills that enable you to extract the essentials from a book as efficiently as possible. In this course we will focus on developing strategic and efficient reading skills.

Central in this course is an independent research project on a historical topic of your own choice. It is highly recommended to select a topic and articulate the specific questions you hope to answer early as possible in the course. You are encouraged to consult me about your topic, possible sources, etc. At the end of the course, you are expected to give a brief work-in-progress report on your research. In this presentation, you are encouraged to take advantage of the collective wisdon present in the room as much as possible: rather than presenting definite conclusions, you can present the problems and pitfalls you encountered. Keep in mind also that a presentation has a dynamic of its own, different from reading a research paper out loud.

In addition to the research paper, I expect you to write one book review or a presentation on a topic related to the course based on a variety of sources. For the presentation or book report, I expect you to go beyond the book in question and tell us about the author (where does s/he teach, what kind of research is s/he engaged in, etc.) and about the reaction to the book in question by finding some reviews (for more guidelines see the web page). If you find a book that fits the themes discussed during a particular week you can also report on that book. In addition to writing the book report/presentation, I expect that you will present your main conclusions in class.

Every week, students are expected to hand in one-page response papers on a readings of their own choice. In this response paper, you should not provide a summary of the article, but pick one of its most interesting arguments, criticize it or apply it to a different topic area, and argue why it is so important.

Students who specialize in the history of psychology can, if they wish to do so, pick those books that will be required for the BTE (the Big Tough Exam; i.e. the qualifying exam).

Requirements:

Attendance and participation:	10%
Presentation or book report:	20%
Response papers	20%
Research paper:	40%
Presentation of research conducted:	10%

The Durham Book Exchange has copies for sale of the following books:

- Kurt Danziger, *Constructing the subject: Historical origins of psychological research*(New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
- Ellen Herman, *The romance of American psychology: Political culture in the age of experts* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).
- Nikolas Rose, *Inventing ourselves: Psychology, power, and personhood* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- Peter N. Stearns, *American cool: Constructing a twentieth-century emotional style* (New York: New York University Press, 1994).

The Course Reader is available at the MUB Copy Center.

Class Prospectus

Jan. 18 Introduction and Organizational Meeting

Jan. 25 Laboratories

Historians of psychology used to investigate the applications of psychology rather than laboratory work. They emphasized mental testing (and eugenics) and industrial and clinical applications. It is much harder to investigate the presence of social factors in laboratory investigations; this, however, has been the emphasis in science studies in the last decade, which has focused on the development of different experimental practices, styles of research, and the technology involved in these. During the next two weeks we will focus on this research.

Reading:

Kurt Danziger, *Constructing the subject: Historical origins of psychological research* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991).

Feb. 1 Laboratories, *continued.*

Mitchell G. Ash, *Gestalt psychology in German culture, 1890-1967: Holism and the quest for objectivity* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), pp. 17-99.
Martin Kusch, "Recluse, interlocutor, interrogator: Natural and social order in turn-of-the-century psychological research schools," *ISIS 86* (1995): 419-39.
John M. O'Donnell, "The new psychology in America," "The rise of experimental psychology," and "Sea change." Chapter 1-3 in: *The origins of behaviorism: American psychology, 1870-1920* (New York: New York University Press, 1985). BTE

Book reports:

- Nadine M. Weidman, *Constructing scientific psychology: Karl Lashley mind-brain debates* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- Martin Kusch, *Psychological knowledge: A social history and philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1999).
- Ruth Leys and Rand B. Evans, eds, *Defining American psychology: The correspondence between Adolf Meyer and Edward Bradford Titchener* (Baltimore,

MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990). BTE

- Jill G. Morawski, ed. *The rise of experimentalism in American psychology* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988). BTE
- Isabelle Stengers, "Black boxes; or, Is psychoanalysis a science," *Power and invention: Situating science* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1997).

Feb. 8 Animals

Recently, historians of science started to investigate the materials used in laboratories. Laboratory animals are part of the equipment that are necessary to produce scientific research; great efforts have been undertaken to standardize them to make their experimental performance predictable and replicable. Other historians have focused on the role animals have played as a Rorschach test for the scientific imagination, purportedly reflecting a deeper, more natural truth about ourselves.

Reading:

Karen A. Rader, "Of mice, medicine, and genetics: C.C. Little's creation of the inbred laboratory mouse, 1909-1918," *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological & Biomedical Sciences* (1999).
Cheryl A. Logan, "The altered rationale for the choice of a standard anial in experimental psychology: Henry H. Donaldson, Adolf Meyer, and 'the' albino rat," *History of Psychology 2* (1999)1: 3-24.
Donna Haraway, "A pilot plant for human engineering: Robert Yerkes and the Yale laboratories of primate biology, 1924-1942," and "Metaphors into hardware: Harry Harlow and the technology of love." Chatpers 4 and 9 in: *Primate Visions: Gender Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science*(New York: Routledge, 1989).

Book reports:

- Gregg Mitmann, "Cinematic nature: Hollywood technology, popular culture, and the American museum of natural history," *ISIS 84* (1993): 637-661.
- Gregg Mitmann, *Reel nature: America's romance with wildlife on film* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).
- Catherine A. Lutz and Jane L. Collins, *Reading national geographic* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1993).

Feb. 15 The field: The test

The mental tests has been central in many histories of psychology, partly because its relationship to the eugenics movement, and partly because of the conservative political convictions of many test designers. The mental test constitutes one of the most successful techniques of psychology seen its widespread use. However, the scientific foundations of test psychology are still hotly debated both within and outside the discipline.

Reading:

Olivier Zunz, "Defining tools of intelligence," and " Inventing the average American," in: *Why the American century?* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
Walter Benn Michaels, "An American tragedy, or the promise of American life," *Representations* (1989)25: 71-98.
John Carson, "Army Alpha, Army brass, and the search for army intelligence," *ISIS* 84 (1993): 278-309.
Leila Zenderland, "Biblical biology: American Protestant social reformers and the early eugenics movement," *Science in Context* 11 (1998)3-4: 511-525.

Book reports:

- Nicholas Rose, *The psychological complex: Social regulation and the psychology of the individual* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985).
- Theodore Porter, *Trust in numbers: The pursuit of objectivity in science and public life* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995). BTE
- Raymond E. Callahan, *Education and the cult of efficiency: A study of the social forces that have shaped the administration of the public schools* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1962).
- Henry L. Minton, *Lewis M. Terman: Pioneer in Psychological Testing* (New York: New York University Press, 1989). BTE
- Leila Zenderland, *Measuring minds: Henry Herbert Goddard and the origins of American intelligence testing* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997). BTE
- Michael M. Sokal, ed. *Psychological testing and American society, 1890-1930* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1987). BTE

The Bell Curve debate

- Gerd Gigenrenzer et al, *The empire of chance: How probability changed science and everyday life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989). BTE
- Ian Hacking, *The taming of change* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Robert Richards, *Darwin and the emergence of evolutionary theories of mind and behavior* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987). BTE
- Robert M. Young, *Mind, brain, and adaptation in the nineteenth century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971). BTE

Feb. 22 Diagnoses

The philosopher and historian of science Ian Hacking analyzed psychiatric diagnoses as ways to "make up people." The influence of psychology and psychiatry, however, reaches further than in providing self-descriptions to people. The psy-sciences have provided, and still provide, the vocabulary most people use to articulate the conceptions they have of themselves, the relationships that are most important to them, and the pitfalls of life.

Reading:

Ian Hacking, "Making up people," in: T.C. Heller, ed., *Reconstrucing individualism: Autonomy, individuality and the self in Western thought.* 1986), 222-236.
Barbara Sicherman, "The uses of a diagnosis: Doctors, patients, and neurasthenia," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 32 (1977): 33-54.
Warwick Anderson, "The trespass speaks: White masculinity and colonial breakdown," *American Historical Review* (1997): 1343-1370.
Ian Hacking, "Memoro-politics, trauma, and the soul," *History of the Human Sciences* 7 (1994)2: 29-52.
Allan Young, "Suffering and the origins of traumatic memory," *Daedalus* 125 (1996)1: 245-261.
Wilbur J. Scott, "PTSD in DSM-III: A case in the politics of diagnosis and disease," *Social Problems* 37 (1990)3: 294-310.

Book reports:

- Tom Lutz, *American nervousness, 1903: An anecdotal history* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991).
- F.G. Gosling, *Before Freud: Neurasthenia and the American medical community, 1870-1910* (Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Press, 1987).
- Allan Young, *The harmony of illusions: Inventing post-traumatic stress disorder*

(Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995).

- Ronald C. Simons and Charles C. Hughes, eds, *The culture-bound syndromes: Folk illnesses of psychiatric and anthropological interest* (Dordrecht and Boston: Reidel. In USA: Kluwer, 1985).
- Ian Hacking, *Rewriting the soul: Multiple personality and the sciences of memory* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).
- Ronald Bayer, *Homosexuality and American psychiatry: The politics of diagnosis* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1987).
- Ellen Herman, *Psychiatry, psychology, and homosexuality.* (New York: Chelsea House, 1995).
- Anne E. Figert, *Women and the ownership of PMS* (New York: Aldine de Gruiter, 1996).
- Kathleen Jones, *Taming the troublesome child: American families, child guidance, and the limits of psychiatric authority*(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Feb. 29 The Public and the American Culture of Consumption

The United States has the highest per-capita psychologist's density in the world. According to many historians and cultural critics, this is the consequence of the ideology of American individualism and the particularly American culture of consumption.

Reading:

T.J. Jackson Lears, "From salvation to self-realization: Advertising and the therapeutic roots of consumer culture, 1880-1930," in: Richard Wightman Fox and T.J. Jackson Lears, ed., *The culture of consumption: Critical essays in American history, 1880-1980* (New York: Pantheon, 1983), 1-38.
T.J. Jackson Lears, *No place of grace: Antimodernism and the transformation of American culture, 1880-1920* (New York: Pantheon, 1981), selected pages. Part BTE.
William Leach, "'Business runs the world': Institutional coalitions behind the new order," "Wanamaker's simple life and the moral failure of established religion," and "Mind cure and the happiness machine." In: *Land of desire: Merchants, power, and the rise of a new American culture* (New York: Vintage, 1993).
Philip Cushman, "Why the self is empty: Toward a historically situated psychology," *American Psychologist* 45 (1990)5: 599-611.

Book reports:

- T.J. Jackson Lears, *No place of grace: Antimodernism and the transformation of American culture, 1880-1920* (New York: Pantheon, 1981).
- Jackson Lears, *Fables of abundance: A cultural history of advertising in America* (New York: Basic, 1994).
- Philip Cushman, *Constructing the self, constructing America: A cultural history of psychotherapy* (Reading, Ma: Addison-Wesley, 1995).
- Eugene Taylor, *Shadow culture: Psychology and spirituality in America* (Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 1999).
- Gail Thain Parker, *Mind cure in New England from the civil war to World War I* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1973).
- Robert C. Fuller, *Mesmerism and the American cure of souls* (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1982).
- Alison Winter, *Mesmerized: Powers of mind in Victorian Britain* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Martha Banta, *Taylored lives: Narrative productions in the age of Taylor, Veblen, and Ford* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1993).

Mar 7 The Self

Historians have analyzed the influence of psychology on American society through the ways in which the discipline provides the tools for individuals to view themselves and their world (see last week). However, only those particular psychological views become popular that have a broader resonance for many individuals. This week we will investigate the specific consciousness in which an eagerness for the consumption of psychology arises.

Reading:

Peter N. Stearns, *American cool: Constructing a twentieth-century emotional style* (New York: New York University Press, 1994). Parts.

Book reports:
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- Peter N. Stearns, *Battle ground of desire: The struggle for self-control in modern America* (New York: New York University Press, 1999).
- Peter N. Stearns and Jan Lewis, eds, *An emotional history of the United States* (New York: New York University Press, 1998).

Mar 14 Spring Break

Mar 21 The Self, continued.

The historian of psychology and political scientist Nikolas Rose has argued that psychology is necessary in capitalistic democracies. This week we will further investigate his arguments.

Reading:

Nikolas Rose, *Inventing ourselves: Psychology, power, and personhood* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996). BTE

Book reports:

- Joel Pfister and Nancy Schnog, eds, *Inventing the psychological: Toward a cultural history of emotional life in America* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997).
- Nikolas Rose, *Powers of freedom: Reframing political thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- Philip Cushman, *Constructing the self, constructing America: A cultural history of psychotherapy* (Reading, Ma: Addison-Wesley, 1995).
- Katherine Hoffman, *Concepts of Identity: Historical and contemporary images and portraits of Self and family* (New York: WestviewPress, 1996).
- Dorrit Cohn, *Transparent minds: Narrative modes for presenting consciousness in fiction* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1978).
- Sherry Turkle, *Life on the screen: Identity in the age of the internet* (New York: Simon & Schuchter, 1995).

Mar 28 The Psychological Profession

Many historians have investigated the ways in which the discipline of psychology has gained influence in society other than through psychotherapy. This week we will investigate the many ways in which psychology has become part of public policy.

Reading:

Ellen Herman, *The romance of American psychology: Political culture in the age of experts* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), till p. 173.. BTE

Book reports:
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- James H. Capshew, *Psychologists on the march: Science, practice, and professional identity in America, 1929-1969* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- Molly Ladd-Taylor and Lauri Umanski, eds, *"Bad" mothers: The politics of blame in twentieth-century America* (New York: New York University Press, 1998).

April 4 Psychology in Society

Herman's book has been called a history of psychology within the belt-way. This week we investigate the role of psychologists in formulating public policy. In addition, we will investigate debates within psychology over the social role the discipline should play.

Reading:

Ellen Herman, *The romance of American psychology: Political culture in the age of experts* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995). Pp. 174 to end.

Book reports/Presentations:

- George W. Albee, "The futility of psychotherapy," *Journal of Mind and Behavior* 11 (1990)3/4: 369-384.
- George W. Albee, "Toward a just society: Lessons from observations on primary prevention of psychopathology," *American Psychologist* 41 (1986)8: 891-898.
- Robert N. Bellah, Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, Ann Swidler, and Steven M. Tipton, *Habits of the heart: Individualism and commitment in American life* (New York: Harper & Row, 1985).
- Philip Rieff, *The triumph of the therapeutic: Uses of faith after Freud* (New York: Harper, 1966).
- David Riesman, *The lonely crowd: A study of the changing American character* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1950).
- Cristopher Lasch, *The culture of narcissim: American life in an age of diminishing expectations* (New York: Norton, 1978).
- Tana Dineen, *Manufacturing victims: What the psychology industry is doing to people* (Montreal, PQ: Robert Davies, 1996).

Psychologists on the Left

- Katherine Pandora, *Rebels within the ranks: Psychologists' critique of scientific authority and democratic realities in New Deal America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).
- Benjamin Harris, "The Benjamin Rush Society and Marxist psychiatry in the United States, 1944-1951," *History of Psychiatry 6* (1995): 309-331. BTE
- Benjamin Harris, "'Don't be unconscious; join our ranks': Psychology, politics, and communist education," *Rethinking Marxism* 6 (1993)1: 44-76.
- Benjamin Harris, "Psychology and Marxist politics in the United States," in: Ian Parker and Russell Spears, ed., *Psychology and society: Radical theory and practice* (Pluto Press: London, 1996), 64-78.
- Special Issue, 50 years of the psychology of social issues, *Journal of Social Issues* 42 (1986)1.

The Freud Wars

- Michael S. Roth, ed. *Freud conflict and culture: Essays on his life, work, and legacy* (New York: Knopf, 1998).
- John Forrester, *Dispatches from the Freud wars: Psychoanalysis and its passions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997).
- Frederick Crews, *The memory wars: Freud's legacy in dispute* (New York: New York Review Book, 1995).
- Frederick Crews, ed. *Unauthorized Freud: Doubters confront a legend* (New York: Penguin, 1998).

April 11 Psychology in the Developing World

The past few weeks we have investigated the role of psychology in Western society. Psychology also has an important function in the developing world, where scientists face the dilemma of either developing a science that could equal Western accomplishments but is irrelevant for their own nation or developing a science relevant to the needs of the developing world but be ignored by the West. These themes will be investigated this week in particular in the work of Ashis Nandi, an Indian psychologists who has given these issues ample attention.

Reading:

Christiane Hartnack, "British psychoanalysts in colonial India," in: Mitchell G. Ash and William R. Woodward, ed., *Psychology in twentieth-century thought and society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
Ashis Nandy, "The non-paradigmatic crisis of Indian psychology: Reflections on a recipient culture of science," *Indian Journal of Psychology* 49 (1974)1: 1-20.
Gündüz Y. H. Vassaf, "Turkey," in: Albert R. Gilgen and Carol K. Gilgen, ed., *International handbook of psychology* (New York: Greenwood, 1987), 484-501.
Durganand Sinha, "India," in: Albert R. Gilgen and Carol K. Gilgen, ed., *International handbook of psychology* (New York: Greenwood, 1987), 239-257.
Ashis Nandy, *The intimate enemy: Loss and recovery of self under colonialism* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1988). [Parts of: Ashis Nandy, *At the edge of psychology: Essays in politics and culture* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1980).]

Book reports/Presentations:

- Stanley Porteus, *The psychology of a primitive people: A study of the Australian aborigine* (New York: Longmans, Green, 1931).
- Henrika Kuklick, *The savage within: The social history of British anthropology, 1885-1945* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991) [with a chapter on W.H.R. Rivers' Torres Straits expedition.]
- Hussein Absilahi Bulhan, *Frantz Fanon and the psychology of oppression* (New York: Plenum, 1985).
- Jock McCulloch, *Black soul white artifact: Fanon's clinical psychology and social theory* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983).
- Ashis Nandi, *The savage Freud and other essays on possible and retrievable selves* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995).
- Zia Sardar, *Ashis Nandy, and Meryl Wyn Davies, Barbaric others: A manifesto on Western racism* (London: Pluto Press, 1993).
- Ashis Nandy, Achyut Yagnik, and Shikha Trivedy, *Creating a nationality: The Ramjanmabhumi movement and the fear of Self* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998).
- Ashis Nandy, ed. *The secret politics of our desires: Innocence, culpability, and Indian popular cinema* (London: Zed Books).

Pick your own country and present an overview of the development of psychology in it. You can use the following sources as a start:

- Albert R. Gilgen and Carol K. Gilgen, eds, *International handbook of psychology* (London: Aldwych, 1987).
- Virginia Staudt Sexton and John D. Hogan, eds, *International Psychology: Views from Around the World* (Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1992).
- Wolgang G. Bringmann, Helmut A. Lück, Rudolf Miller, and Charles E. *Early, A pictorial history of psychology* (Chicago: Quitessence, 1997).

April 18 Research Presentations.

April 25 Research Presentations.

May 2 Last Class. Research Presentations.

Research paper due: May 12, before 4PM.

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