

Chapter 1: The Evolution of Psychology

Rick Grieve, Ph.D.

PSY 100

Western Kentucky University

Definition of Psychology

■ Undergone many transformations

- 1st decade of 20th century
- 2nd decade of 20th century
 - John B. Watson
 - James R. Angell
- John F. Dashiell
- Howard C. Warren
- Howard Nunn

Definition of Psychology

- Early 1960s
 - Clifford Morgan
- Later 1960s
- 1970s
- Today:
 - The science that studies behavior and the physiological and cognitive processes that underlie it, and the profession that applies the accumulated knowledge of this science to practical problems.

Critical Thinking

■ Involves 5 questions:

- What am I being asked to believe?
- Is there evidence to support the claim?
- Can that evidence be interpreted in another way?
- What evidence would help to evaluate the alternatives
- What conclusions are most reasonable?

Critical Thinking

■ Keys to critical thinking:

- Be open minded

- Be intellectually curious
- Look for multiple determinants of behavior
- Think like a scientist

The Scientific Method

■ Four Steps:

- Observation of something of interest in the natural world
- Formulation of a hypothesis
- Collection of data
- Analyze the data

Other Methods of Knowledge Aquisition

- Authoritative Pronouncements
- Democratic Judgments
- Reason
- Feelings
- Sensory Information & Experience

In the Beginning

■ Wilhelm Wundt

- Credited with creating the science of psychology with his lab in 1879
- Comes from a blending of physiology and philosophy
- First focus was on the structures of the mind

Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

■ Behaviorism

- John B. Watson
- B.F. Skinner
- Ivan Pavlov

■ Psychodynamic (Psychoanalytic)

- Sigmund Freud
- Alfred Adler
- Carl Jung

Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

- **Humanistic**
 - Carl Rogers
 - Abraham Maslow
- **Cognitive**
 - Jean Piaget
 - (Wilhelm Wundt & William James)
 - Ulric Neisser

Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

- **Biological/Neuroscientific**
- **Sociocultural**
- **Evolutionary**
 - David Buss
 - Steven Pinker

Themes in Psychology

- **Psychology is Empirical**
- **Psychology is Theoretically Diverse**
- **Psychology Evolves in a Sociohistorical Context**
- **Behavior is Determined by Multiple Causes**
- **Behavior is Shaped by Cultural Heritage**

Themes in Psychology

- **Heredity and Environment Jointly Influence Behavior**
- **People's Experience of the World is Highly Subjective**

What does a Psychologist Do?

- **Contemporary psychology has a number of fields of subspecialization**
 - Can differentiate between research and applied perspectives
- **Differences between a psychologist and a psychiatrist**

What does a Psychologist Do?

- How to become a psychologist
- The Boulder Conference

Graduate Programs at WKU

- WKU offers graduate-level psychology programs in:
 - Clinical Psychology (MA)
 - School Psychology (EdS)
 - Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MA)
 - General Psychology (MA)

Graduate Programs at WKU

- Admission Minimum Requirements:
 - GPA: 3.00
 - GRE: 850 (Verbal + Quantitative)
 - 12 hours of undergraduate psychology courses
 - Three letters of recommendation
- Completion requirements

Graduate Programs at WKU

- Averages for FA 2002 WKU Clinical Acceptees:
 - GPA: 3.54
 - Psych GPA: 3.58
 - GRE Verbal: 469
 - GRE Quantitative: 551
 - GRE Total: 1020

Graduate Programs at WKU

- Averages for 1992-1993 Doctoral Level Acceptees:
 - GPA: 3.50
 - Psych GPA: 3.66
 - GRE Verbal: 593
 - GRE Quantitative: 613
 - GRE Total: 1206

Graduate Programs at WKU

- Averages for 1992-1993 Master's Level Acceptees:
 - GPA: 3.27
 - Psych GPA: 3.42
 - GRE Verbal: 517

- GRE Quantitative: 533
- GRE Total: 1033

What if you don't want to go to grad school?

- Do you have to go to graduate school to get a job with a psychology degree?

Top 10 Skills Employers Like in Psychology Majors

- Listening Skills
- Ability to Work on Teams
- Interpersonal Awareness
- Desire and Ability to Learn
- Willingness to Gain New Skills
- Focus on the Customer/Clients
- Environmental Awareness

Top 10 Skills Employers Like in Psychology Majors

- Adaptability
- Critical Evaluation
- Problem-Solving Skills

Other Skills Gained With a Psychology Major

- Literacy
- Statistical Familiarity
- Computer Literacy
- Research Skills
- Perspective
- Pragmatism

So, what kind of job can I get with my B.A. in Psychology?

- **50% of Psychology graduates were employed with a for-profit company**
- **20% public affairs or social services**
- **14% teaching**
- **10% sales**
- **10% state or local government**

Salary range

- **2001 survey**
 - **Range of \$21,900-\$40,000**
 - **Management: \$30,488**
 - **Teaching: \$25,378**
 - **Counseling: \$24,724**
 - **Social Work: \$23,988**
 - **Sales: \$34,451**
 - **Government: \$20,000-\$29,000**