

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome

International Relations Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	History of Psychology
Course Number:	PSY 311
Credits & hours:	3 credit hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	Introductory PSY course

Course description

This course traces the historical developments of psychology starting with Ancient Persia and Middle East through the founding of psychology as an empirical science. Special attention is paid to Roman and Renaissance philosophers and scientists and their unique contributions to the formation of Western psychological science. This course is designed to cover psychology's various transitions from studying mind to behavior, as well as the contextual and cultural factors affecting how the human experience is approached philosophically and scientifically. Part of the course will emphasize the contributions of specific individuals but will also frame these contributions within broader themes of psychological thought. In addition, this course will briefly explore psychology as a profession and topics related to the practice and application of psychology across time. Finally, students will explore their own identities as psychology majors.

Free online textbook: <https://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/historyofpsych.html>

Additional readings provided online based on need

Course Learning Objectives

As recommended by APA's guidelines for undergraduate education in psychology (denoted in parentheses), at the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the philosophical roots and assumptions of various schools of psychology (1.1A)
2. Explain the role of psychology in relation to both philosophy and the natural sciences and how the three complement one another (1.1E)
3. Identify specific contributions of the main individuals in the development of modern psychology and place them in their historical and societal context (1.2C)
4. Link significant themes related to Roman history and how these contribute to modern psychological concepts

Course Learning Activities

- Lectures and discussions involving Ancient to Modern psychology topics [1,2, 3]
- Visit to Vatican City (tentative) [4]
- Visit to Museo Capuchin Crypt (tentative) [3, 4]
- Visit to National Museum of Rome (tentative) [4]

Assessment tools

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Reflection paper on museum visits	25%
Creative composition or work based on Rome	25%

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session	Topic
1	Introduction & philosophical terminology
2	Ancient Greek tradition: Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
3	<i>Part I: Ancient philosophy & psychology</i>
4	Hellenistic philosophies & religion
5	Roman psychology & Early Christianity <i>Part I: Ancient philosophy & psychology</i> Vatican Visit
6	Middle Ages & Early Renaissance <i>Part II: The Beginnings of Modern Philosophy</i>
7	Capuchin Crypt Visit The Renaissance & Scientific Revolution <i>Part II: The Beginnings of Modern Philosophy</i>
8	The Enlightenment <i>Part II: The Enlightenment, Kant & Hume</i>
9	Romanticism & Existentialism <i>Part III: The Romantic Philosophers</i>
10	Midterm
11	National Museum of Rome visit
12	Romanticism & Existentialism
13	19 th Century & Modern Psychology <i>Part III: Early Medicine & Physiology</i> <i>Part III: William James & Wilhelm Wundt</i>
14	Functionalism & Gestalt Psychology <i>Part III: Charles Darwin & Evolution</i> <i>Part IV: Gestalt Psychology</i>
15	Reflection & Creative composition due
16	Three Forces: Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, Humanistic <i>Part IV: Psychoanalysis & Behaviorism</i>
17	Final Exam