

Evolution of Psychology

Evolution of Psychology – Study Notes

1. Foundations (Late 19th?Century)

Period	Key Figures	Main Contributions
Structuralism (1879? 1900)	Wilhelm Wundt, Edward Titchener	• First experimental lab (Leipzig) • Introspection to map basic elements of consciousness
Functionalism (1890 ?1910)	William James, John Dewey, James?G.?Marsh	• Emphasis on purpose of mental processes • Influenced education, applied psychology
Psychophysics & Sensation	Gustav Fechner, Ernst Weber	• Quantified relationship between stimulus and perception (Weber?Fechner law)

2. Early 20th?Century – The Rise of Schools

School	Core Idea	Representative Researchers	Notable Experiments / Concepts
Behaviorism	Behavior is learned; internal states are not directly observable	John B. Watson, B.F. Skinner, Ivan Pavlov	Classical conditioning (Pavlov), Operant conditioning (Skinner box)
Gestalt Psychology	Perception organized as wholes, not sums of parts	Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, Kurt Koffka	Laws of perceptual organization (figure? ground, proximity)
Psychoanalysis	Unconscious drives shape behavior	Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Alfred Adler	Dream analysis, free association, psychosexual stages
Humanistic Psychology	Emphasis on free will, self?actualization	Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers	Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, client?centered therapy

3. Mid?20th?Century – The Cognitive Revolution

Decade	Shift	Key Figures & Works

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1940s?	Reaction against strict behaviorism;	George Miller – “The Magical Number Seven”;
1950s	interest in mental processes	Noam Chomsky – critique of behaviorist language models
1960s?	Development of experimental	Ulric Neisser – <i>Cognitive Psychology</i> (1967);
1970s	paradigms for memory, attention, problem solving	Herbert Simon & Allen Newell – computer models of cognition
1970s?	Emergence of information?processing	Donald Broadbent – selective attention;
1980s	models; rise of neuropsychology	Michael Posner – attentional networks

Core Concepts Introduced

- **Mental representations** (schemas, scripts)
- **Information?processing metaphor** (input ? encoding ? storage ? retrieval)
- **Computational models** of cognition

4. Late 20th?Century – Integration & New Directions

Area	Development	Influential Researchers
Biological Psychology	Linking brain structure/function to behavior	Roger Sperry (split?brain), Paul Broca , Karl Pribram
Evolutionary Psychology	Human behavior as adaptation to ancestral environments	Leda Cosmides , John Tooby , David Buss
Social Cognitive Theory	Interaction of cognition, behavior, and environment	Albert Bandura – observational learning, self?efficacy

**Cognitive Neuroscience