

Department.: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 291W

Course Title: The History and Systems of Psychology

Credits: 3

Contact Person: John Rickards

Catalog Copy: PSYC 291W. The History and Systems of Psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 135 or 133; ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250.

W Criteria:

1. The History and Systems of Psychology is a required course in Psychology to help the student develop an understanding of the conceptual breadth of the field of psychology as well as an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of both past and present schools of psychology from a historical perspective. Writing assignments provide students with an opportunity to develop their understanding and own opinions about this through comparisons and contrasts of the different schools of thought that developed within psychology.

At least 15 pages of writing is required to complete the course. Although the grade weight of the writing portion of the course is typically 40 percent, failure of this writing portion results in failure in the course. The syllabus will state these facts clearly.

2. General advice about writing is provided during the regular lecture sections of the course. Examples include the recommended technique of first developing a topical outline to guide writing efforts, the proper way of citing other people=s work, and the definition of plagiarism and its consequences within the context of this course. For each writing assignment, the individual student receives specific written and/or oral feedback about how the paper could be improved.

3. After receiving writing feedback and a grade on the first submission of a paper, the student has the option of re-writing and resubmitting the paper for a better grade. Students seeking additional advice can meet with the instructor during office hours and by appointment. In some cases, the student can be well served by utilizing the resources provided by staff at the University Writing Center.

Role of Grad Students: Not Applicable. No graduate teaching assistants are involved with this course.

Supplementary Information: This is a required course of all Psychology majors.