I. INTRODUCTION
   A. Questions
      - Write a brief characterization of each of the following professionals:
        - Psychologist, Astrologist, Scientist
      - List the most interesting idea(s) in psychology you have encountered.
        - Ideas you found exciting, surprising, or important.
      - How do psychology theories change?
        - How and why did Psychodynamic, Behavioral, and Humanistic, and Cognitive views of human nature rise and fall over time?

II. IMAGE OF PSYCHOLOGY
   A. Is Psychology Scientific?
      - Is your image of psychologists like scientists?
      - Psychology has been defined in textbooks as the scientific study of the mind and behavior.
      - To study people, psychologists, like other scientists, predict and explain behavior.
      - Is your image of psychologists and scientists different or the same?
      - Astrologist predict and explain of behavior but not scientifically.
        - In the eyes of psychology, astrology is a pseudoscience
        - Is your image of psychologists and astrologists the same or different?
      - The discipline presents itself as scientific.
      - Psychologists see themselves as scientists and as very different than astrologists.
      - Even psychologists who work in clinics or hospitals often (although not always) see themselves as scientist-practitioners.
      - Psychologists are supposed to be practitioner-scientists like medical doctor.
      - The activities of psychologists like doctors are based on the best scientific evidence, with no activities being performed without such evidence.
II. IMAGE OF PSYCHOLOGY
A. Is Psychology Scientific?
- Curiously, Hergenhahn’s textbook defines psychology differently than the standard definition of psychology in textbooks!
- Psychology is defined by the professional activities of psychologists. (p. 2)
- Why would Hergenhahn define psychology in such a circular and non-standard manner?
  - Two reasons
    - Historical diversity.
    - Professional diversity

II. IMAGE OF PSYCHOLOGY
B. Historic Diversity
- The definition avoids fixing a permanent meaning of the discipline when viewing it historically.
  - No single definition of psychology would apply in the history of the discipline.
  - Historically psychology was defined as study of the psyche, or mind; the spirit; consciousness; behavior.
  - Historically, psychology has involved different activities historically than it does now
  - Professional psychological activity has included examined responses to inkblots to identifying bumps on the head.

II. IMAGE OF PSYCHOLOGY
C. Professional Diversity
- The definition acknowledges the range of backgrounds, approaches, and activities of psychologists.
- What do you think it means that we can not agree about what is interesting, exciting or important?
- Does it mean that psychology is in trouble because of the diversity of ideas?
  - Guess how many divisions that there are in American Psychological Association? (Divisions)
  - Guess how many journals American PA publishes? (APA Journals)
II. IMAGE OF PSYCHOLOGY
   D. Science and Conceptual Change

- How and why do psychological ideas about human nature change?
- What caused *Psychodynamic* views of human nature to rise and wane from 1920s to 1940s?
- *Behaviorist* views of human nature quickly rose and fell as the scientific account for the discipline. Why?
- Why led to the rise and fall of *Humanistic* view of human nature from the 1960s to 1980s?
- What triggered the present pervasiveness of *neuroscience* account of human nature? Will it last?
III. Why Study the History of Psychology

A. Reasons

- Text’s Reasons to study History of Psychology
  - Perspective: Appreciate how ideas evolve.
  - Deeper understanding: Realize the broader ideas underlying current issues in psychology.
  - Recognition of fads or fashions: Distinguish ideas valued for their social relevance rather than truth.
  - Avoiding repetition of mistakes: Understand unproductive intellectual avenues.
  - A source of valuable ideas: Value old ideas which can become new again (e.g., unconscious).
  - Curiosity: Identify with one’s discipline’s past.

- But there may be a 7th Reason not in the textbook.
  - Studying the history of psychology will make you more aware of the myths of the discipline.
  - Like any institution socializing its young, undergraduate Psychology courses propagate of myths about the discipline.
  - One myth may be the extent to which psychology is a pure science, not different than physics.
    - Underlying diversity in psychology is an uniformity of accepting the discipline as scientific.
  - As we will see in the class, the history presents a different story of this.

B. Keith Stanovich

- Stanovich’s *How to Think Straight about Psychology* is a defense of the discipline as scientific.
- Psychologists share the common value of science.
  - Science is a way of thinking about and observing the universe that leads to a deeper understanding of its workings (Stanovich, p. 8).
- Stanovich discusses three characteristics of science
  - Systematic Empiricism: Evidence-based.
  - Publicly verifiable: Ideas are open to scrutiny.
  - Deals with solvable problems: Only testable ideas.

B. Sigmund Koch

- Koch authored a respected history of the discipline then denied it was scientific.
- “Characteristically, psychological events are multiply-determined, ambiguous in their human meaning, polymorphous (multiformed), contextually environed or embedded in complex and vaguely bounded ways, evanescent (temporary) and labile (unstable) in the extreme.”
- “Psychology has been misconceived as a science or as any kind of coherent discipline devoted to the empirical study of human beings.”
IV. THE COURSE
   A. Features
   - This course is designed to help students understand the discipline in new ways
   - Students will learn about the assumptions underlying modern ideas in psychology (the Systems part) by exploring the conceptual origins and evolution of those ideas (the History part).
   - The course runs backwards, tracing back contemporary ideas to previous ideas of earlier times and ultimately to a Greek!
   - It is my hope that the course will arm you with skills to perform an “archeology of psychological knowledge” and sharpen your critical thinking about the discipline.