

Theoretical Perspectives in Psychology

MA-HO2-092005

Perspective	Principal Contributors	Subject Matter	Basic Premise
Structuralism (1875 - 1930's)	Wilhelm Wundt Edward Titchener	Structure of consciousness	The content of conscious experience can be analyzed into its basic elements
Functionalism (1890 - 1930's)	William James G. Stanley Hall James Cattell	Functions of consciousness	The adaptive purposes of conscious experience are more important than its structure
Gestalt Psychology (1912 - 1940's)	Max Wertheimer Kurt Koffka Wolfgang Kohler	Organization of consciousness	Conscious experiences and perceptions are more than the sum of their parts
Behaviorism (1913 - present)	John B. Watson Ivan Pavlov B.F. Skinner	Effects of the environment on the overt behavior of humans and animals	Only observable events (stimulus-response relations) can be studied scientifically
Psychoanalytic (1900 - present)	Sigmund Freud Carl Jung Alfred Adler	Unconscious determinants of behavior	Unconscious motives and experiences in early childhood govern personality and mental disorders
Humanism (1950's - present)	Carl Rogers Abraham Maslow	Unique aspects of human experience	Humans are free, rational beings with the potential for personal growth, and they are fundamentally different from animals
Cognitive (1950's - present)	Jean Piaget Noam Chomsky Herbert Simon	Thoughts; mental processes	Human behavior cannot be fully understood without examining how people acquire, store, and process information
Biological (1950's - present)	James Olds Roger Sperry	Physiological bases of behavior in humans and animals	An organisms's functioning can be explained in terms of the bodily structures and biochemical processes that underlie behavior