# PSYCHOLOGY

THIRD EDITION



CAMILLE B. WORTMAN ELIZABETH F. LOFTUS

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

Third Edition

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## preface

## THE GOALS OF THIS BOOK

This third edition of *Psychology* preserves—and improves on—the strengths of the second edition. The book's first major goal is to integrate theories and research with real-life applications so as to make the study of psychology both interesting and meaningful to students. Our second objective is to encourage critical thinking about psychological ideas and findings by stressing the kinds of critical questions that scientific researchers ask. The desire to strengthen these two goals led us to make a number of changes.

# Integrating Theory, Research, and Applications

Some texts take a strong research orientation, with little apparent concern for readability or student interest. Others are research-oriented in some parts, and are interspersed with separate sections on applications and other high-interest topics. Many authors have filled their texts with an array of "special features"—cartoons, newspaper clippings, boxed inserts of various kinds, even stories and vignettes. Indeed, many current books seem to be based on the assumption that the only way to make scientific content palatable to students is to offer them a panoply of gimmicks and titillating topics. Because we believe that psychology can be exciting and engaging without recourse to gimmicks or sacrifice of scientific integrity, we originally decided to write this book.

As in the first and second editions, our aim is to integrate conceptually sophisticated theories and research with applications and topics of current concern to students. We feel that separated boxes, vignettes, and other added-on features have several serious drawbacks. For one thing, they disrupt the flow and coherence of a chapter, often making it hard for readers to grasp how topics interrelate. For another, such added-on extras are based on the erroneous assumption that students need a breather from their toils as they wearily plod through scientific material. For those who disagree with this assumption we offer an alternative

view: By fully interweaving theories and research with applications, *all* of introductory psychology can be made fascinating and meaningful to students.

The third edition of *Psychology* includes many new efforts to carry out this integration. Our section on generalized anxiety disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorders in Chapter 15 is one good example. In it, the psychoanalytic perspective, cognitive learning perspective, and biological perspective are all shown to shed light on these disorders. Such material was missing from the second edition. There we only described these problems; we now raise the question of "why?" Similarly, in Chapter 5, our discussion of programmed instruction is integrated with current theories and research on learning. In these and many other instances students can clearly see that scientific findings often have direct application to matters of practical importance in everyday life.

Interrelating Concepts Throughout the Book. Increasingly, researchers in different areas are finding that concepts presented in one subfield are relevant to concepts in another. We continue to make every effort to tie these interrelated concepts together so as to enrich students' overall understanding of psychology. For instance, the concepts of limited human capacity for processing information and of schemas are introduced in Chapter 4, which deals with sensation and perception. In Chapter 5 we discuss the role of schemas and expectations in learning. In Chapter 6 we pick up the thread again when discussing the limitations of human memory. The ideas appear again in Chapter 7, where we examine how people go about solving problems and making decisions. In Chapter 8 we see how cognitive development is affected by limited short-term memory storage space. Still later, in Chapter 17 on social psychology, we relate the very same ideas to social cognition, especially to how people employ schemas in forming impressions of others. In this way we hope that students will perceive some of the important consistencies in how we humans think and act.

## **Encouraging Critical Thought**

In planning our approach to writing this book, we asked ourselves the following question: How can this

text enhance the long-run impact of students' first (and often only) psychology course? The conclusion we came to is that giving them specific facts is not as important as helping them acquire an understanding of what the science of psychology is all about, and how it differs from common sense.

We believe that this approach has two important benefits. First, it conveys much of the excitement of doing scientific work. Second, and even more important, it gets students to think critically about psychological information by encouraging them to ask questions about how "facts" are obtained. In this way we hope to promote a healthy skepticism toward ideas derived from poor research methods. Such skepticism is very valuable in today's society, where people are exposed to a barrage of popular "psychologizing"—everything from tests in the Sunday supplement to evaluate one's marriage, to the numerous "self-improvement" books that line drugstore shelves. We have tried to provide students with the critical skills needed to question the validity of this popularized psychology. We hope that these skills will remain with them long after their introductory course.

Of course, the goal of teaching students to think critically is not an easy one. How, specifically, have we tried to accomplish it?

Focus on the Process of Scientific Inquiry. In the third edition we continue to make every effort to emphasize the *process* of scientific inquiry. Repeatedly we focus on how psychologists develop testable hypotheses, how they gather and interpret data, and how they arrive at conclusions. We try to show how early studies form the foundation for later research, which in turn often refines our understanding by ruling out alternative explanations. We have devoted an early chapter of the book (Chapter 2) to a careful consideration of how psychologists define research objectives, select a method of inquiry, gather and interpret their data, rule out alternative explanations, and deal with the ethical dilemmas that research sometimes poses. We then carry these themes throughout the book by repeatedly encouraging students to evaluate the theories and research we present. For example, undergraduates are often impressed by Rosenhan's study in which normal people who entered mental hospital posing as schizophrenics failed to be detected as normal by the hospital staffs. Many introductory texts stop with a brief summary of Rosenhan's findings. This book, in contrast, encourages critical thought by guiding readers through an

analysis of what the Rosenhan study does and doesn't prove.

Comparing Empirical Data with Common-Sense Ideas. A second technique we use to develop critical thinking is to contrast "common sense" myths about psychology with what empirical data reveal. One of the frustrating things about teaching introductory psychology is the large number of students who believe that psychology is nothing more than "common sense." We try to show that while empirical data sometimes support our common-sense notions, they often do not. For instance, common sense leads us to believe that the more motivated people are, the better they will perform on a task. Drawing from theoretical and empirical work, we demonstrate in Chapter 1 how simplistic this assumption is.

Similarly, common sense tells us that we remember events exactly as they happen. In Chapters 6 and 9 we counter this popular misconception. We present information on memory distortions—especially the fascinating cases of children's court testimony to show that our memories can be distorted by questions, suggestions, and our own moods. By highlighting such discrepancies between common sense and empirical findings, we hope to emphasize that people cannot trust their intuitions when it comes to human behavior. A careful evaluation of available evidence is always essential.

In-Depth Sections. Finally, a third and very important way we encourage critical thinking is through the section in each chapter labeled "In Depth." In these sections we explore in detail the processes psychologists use to investigate a particular research question—how they developed their hypotheses, designed studies to test them, interpreted the findings, and modified their conclusions in light of new information or criticisms raised by others.

The In-Depth sections concentrate on a critical issue, investigating how different researchers have shed light on it. For instance, in the motivation chapter (Chapter 11) the In Depth explores obesity. We review the theoretical and empirical work of Schachter, Nisbett, Rodin, Herman and Polivy, and others, with particular attention to how these investigators have influenced one another's work. Throughout, the reader is led to see that the problem of significant, permanent weight loss is a complex one to which there are seldom simple answers. The new In-Depth sections included in this book are listed in the next section.

# WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION?

Although the third edition of *Psychology* continues to emphasize the themes present in the first and second editions, we have made a special effort to make the themes and processes *more accessible to students*. We have also incorporated much new material, and several chapters have been reorganized. Here we can review only the highlights of the many improvements we have made.

### Interrelationship of Concepts Made Clearer

The classic admonition to the novice speechmaker is "tell them what you are going to tell them, then tell them, then tell them what you told them." Pedagogically, this is also sound advice for textbook authors. In the third edition, we have tried to explain the interrelationship of concepts when they are first introduced. So, for example, when we first discuss perceptual set in Chapter 4, we explain how related concepts called schemas and expectations will be discussed in later chapters. This approach makes complex relationships and concepts more accessible to students. We use this approach throughout the book as we demonstrate that the various subfields of psychology are not independent, by more explicitly tying together concepts both within and between chapters. For example, in Chapter 3 we show the integrative nature of the brain's functioning in the section "The Brain's Role in Complex Behaviors." In Chapter 4 we show the interrelatedness of the senses in "Integration of the Senses." In Chapter 13 we use a compare and contrast format to integrate personality theories in "Comparing Approaches to Personality." In Chapter 16, our new section on integrating behavior therapies with psychoanalytic theories shows the common elements they share.

# Pedagogical Strengthening of In-Depth Sections

In our continual striving to improve critical thinking skills of *all* students, we have reorganized the In-Depth sections around a more consistent structural framework. Each In—Depth now focuses on three broad divisions of the scientific process: "The Initial Studies," "Criticisms, Alternatives, and Further Research," and "Patterns and Conclusions." In Chapter 1, we introduce students to the scientific process using this three heading format and explain how each of the In-Depth sections throughout the book will repeat this pattern while examining a particular research question. We feel this additional pedagogy will clarify for students the "In-Depth" research.

Many New In-Depth Sections Have Been Added. Instructors and students alike responded very favorably to the In-Depth sections in our first and second editions. In this edition, therefore, we have retained the best of the old, while creating many new In Depths on important research topics. The new additions are:

- Effects of TV Violence on Aggression (Chapter 2)
- Can Other Animals Learn Language? (Chapter 7)
- Are Children More Prone To Memory Distortions? (Chapter 8)
- The Hidden Observer (Chapter 12)
- How Consistent Is Behavior? (Chapter 13)
- Learned Helplessness (Chapter 15)
- Can Alcoholics Drink in Moderation? (Chapter 16)
- Why Do People Fall In Love? (Chapter 17)

In addition, we have heavily revised the In Depths retained from the second edition, in order to incorporate new research findings and conform to our new format. The result is an overall strengthening of this very popular feature.

## Improved Coverage and Integration of Biological Foundations

Chapter 3 has been reorganized, rewritten, and updated. There is new material on neurotransmitters and neural networks, the evolution of brain structures, localization of function, brain disorders and treatment. The anatomical drawings have been revised for clarity and accuracy. In addition, Chapter 3 more clearly introduces the biological perspective that is integrated throughout the book. To briefly list a few examples:

- In Chapter 5 we've added a new section on the biological constraints on learning.
- In Chapter 6 there's new material on memory storage sites in the brain.

- In Chapter 12 we've updated the physiological basis of sleep and added new findings on the physiology of hypnosis.
- In Chapter 15 there's new material on biological basis of depression, schizophrenia, and alcoholism.
- In Chapter 16 we've updated research on the effects of drugs on neurotransmitters.

## "Part 4—The Process of Development" Has Been Reorganized

In the first and second editions, our coverage of human development consisted of one chapter on social and cognitive development and one chapter on language and its development. In the third edition, we've expanded the coverage of social and cognitive development, giving each its own chapter. We have greatly condensed our coverage of language and incorporated it into the new Chapter 7 on cognition and language. Language acquisition has been incorporated into Chapter 8 on cognitive development.

## Up-to-Date Research and Findings Have Been Added

It is both an exciting and challenging task to select the most promising new studies and ideas to incorporate into an introductory textbook. Although we have added new material in every chapter, we can preview a sample here:

- In Chapter 2, an entirely new section on ethics.
- In Chapter 4, expanded coverage of signal detection theory; and bottom-up vs. top-down processing is introduced as an on-going theme throughout the chapter.
- In Chapter 6, a new section on encoding in short term memory including effortful versus automatic encoding.
- In Chapter 7, new material on creativity; and an update of heuristics.
- In Chapter 11, new material on the relationship between stress and disease; more on human sexuality; and updates of research on anorexia and bulimia.
- Chapter 12, a new discussion of varying responses to alcohol; and new material on crack.

- Chapter 13, new material on post Freudian Theories, e.g., ego psychology; and Kohut's object relations theory.
- Chapter 16, a new section on integrating psychoanalytic and behavioral therapies.
- Chapter 18, a new section on techniques of compliance.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

There would not have been a third edition in 1988 without the expert assistance of five consultants: First of all we want to thank Gerald Davison of the University of Southern California, who prepared outlines and research summaries for the revision of Chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16; Steven Ceci of Cornell University drafted the reorganization and expansion of Chapters 8 and 9; Lynn Nadel of the University of Arizona gave us detailed advice on the revision of Chapter 3; Ross Buck of the University of Connecticut provided criticisms and ideas for the improvement of Chapters 10 and 11; and David Winter of Wesleyan College played an invaluable role as general adviser.

We are also most grateful to the reviewers of the second and third editions who have labored along with us and are listed below.

Once again we thank the people at Random House/Knopf who put enormous effort into this project. Mary Falcon, our senior editor, skillfully guided us through another edition; Sylvia Shepard. our developmental editor, put her creative efforts to work for us again; Roberta Meyer helped keep everyone on schedule. We especially want to thank the people at Visual Education Corporation who are responsible for the beauty of this book; Susan Ashmore, Dan Liberatore, Marie Enders, Carrie Rosenthal, Anita Black, Max Crandall, Robert Sugar, Paul Gioni, and Ellen Horan. Once again we thank our husbands for their continued understanding and support, and finally, we thank Mary Marshall's son David for waiting until galleys to be born.

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Mary E. Marshall, until she became a psychology writer in 1979, was manager of special projects at the college department of Random House. During her ten years in college publishing, she supervised the development of introductory texts such as *Psychology Today*,

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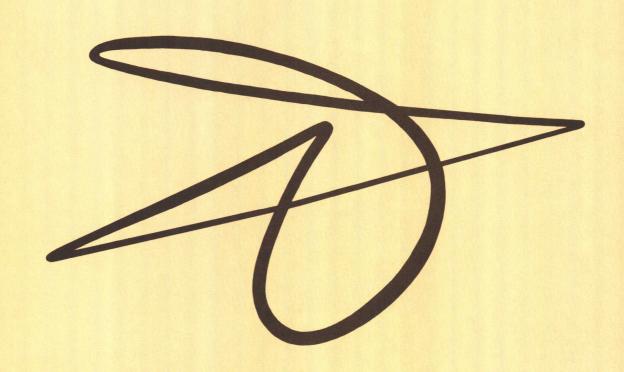
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# **PART ONE**

THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY



## The Dimensions of Psychology



Bruce Nauman, Untitled, 1978.

#### **ASPECTS OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Psychology Is a Science
Science Versus Common Sense
The Ongoing Nature of Science
Psychology Is a Means of
Promoting Human Welfare

#### THE HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Wundt Helps to Establish
Psychology as a Science
Functionalists Broaden the
Definition of Psychology
Behaviorists Focus on
Observable Behavior
Gestaltists Look at the Whole
Cognitive Psychologists Expand
the Study of Mental Processes

Freud Begins Probing the Unconscious Humanists Oppose Deterministic Views Building on the Past

## CONTEMPORARY FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Experimental and Physiological Psychology
Personality Psychology
Social Psychology
Developmental Psychology
Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Educational and School Psychology
Clinical and Counseling

Psychology
Emerging Fields of Specialization
LOOKING AT ISSUES FROM
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES
PSYCHOLOGY AS A VOCATION
AND A PERSPECTIVE

hen you hear the word *psychology*, what comes to mind? A laboratory where scientists, trying to understand what influences learning and performance, observe rats as they run through mazes? Or does the word conjure up images of a therapist listening to someone's problems, analyzing dreams, or providing guidance on how to raise children? Although these are common preconceptions about psychology, they provide only a limited picture of what this book is all about. Yet each touches on an important aspect of the subject you are about to explore. The first suggests that psychology is a science, a set of procedures for systematically observing facts about behavior and organizing these facts into generalizations about why humans and other animals act as they do. The second stresses that psychology is a means of promoting human welfare, a body of information that can be applied to help solve a variety of human problems. We begin this chapter by examining these two aspects of psychology, which can be defined as the study of behavior and mental processes.

# ASPECTS OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Psychology Is a Science

What does it mean to say that psychology is a science? It means that psychologists, like other scientists, adopt a special approach to obtaining and organizing knowledge. They use systematic methods to gather data about the things that interest them, methods you will read about in Chapter 2. Next they proceed to develop general principles or theories about why things happen as they do. A theory is an attempt to fit all the known, relevant facts into a logical explanation. Once formulated, a theory can serve as a framework for collecting more data. "If this theory is true," psychologists reason, "people should respond in the following manner under this set of circumstances." Psychologists then gather more evidence to verify these predictions and modify the original theory as new facts emerge.

Although psychology has been a science for many years, some people still question whether all aspects of

human behavior are accessible to scientific inquiry. One such person is William Proxmire, chairman of the Senate subcommittee that oversees the National Science Foundation (NSF). Senator Proxmire believes that certain human behaviors are too individual, too unpredictable to be studied with the methods of science. One of his targets some years ago was an NSF grant for research on love. Proxmire argued:

I object to this not only because no one—not even the National Science Foundation—can argue that falling in love is a science; not only that, even if they spend \$84 million or \$84 billion they wouldn't get an answer that anyone would believe. I am against it because I don't want the answer. I believe that 200 million other Americans want to leave some things in life a mystery, and right at the top of the things we don't want to know is why a man falls in love with a woman and vice versa. (National Science Foundation Funded Projects, 1975)

Psychologists, of course, disagree. They believe it is possible and desirable to conduct rigorous research on all aspects of human behavior, even those as complex and multifaceted as love. Psychologists doubt that human behavior is such a mystery that it cannot be understood scientifically. They believe there are patterns underlying human thought and actions, just as there are patterns underlying all phenomena in the physical universe. These patterns can be discovered through careful observation and measurement of how people respond under various conditions. From a large number of such observations, psychologists can generalize about how people typically behave in a given situation. These generalizations, in turn, enable predictions to be made about how someone might act in a slightly different but related situation. By testing such predictions, psychologists can further evaluate their initial generalizations, altering them as evidence demands. This, in essence, is the process of science, and psychologists argue that it can be applied to human behavior just as surely as it can be applied to the study of atoms and molecules, celestial bodies, and the movement of continents across the face of the earth.

This is not to deny that research in psychology can be challenging. Psychologists cannot dismantle human beings to find out what makes them tick. Studying the how and why of human behavior often takes ingenuity.