Psychology

A Journey of Discovery







Stephen Franzoi

PSYCHOLOGY A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

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In teaching introductory psychology, professors are essentially trying to persuade you—the student—that the information presented in the course is a valuable way to understand behavior and the process of living on this planet. There are compelling arguments in the message of psychology, and most professors believe that, if they can get you to spend some time thinking about and evaluating the message, you will become more competent in dealing with future life events. The distinct advantage that a psychology course has in stimulating student interest is that its subject matter is the "study of the mind." As such, introductory psychology offers you the hope that course material will help you not only better understand other people, but also yourself. Seeking such knowledge is a distinguishing feature of young adulthood, and the college experience is specifically designed to foster this quest.

To help you in your quest to better understand yourself and others, this text presents the science of psychology as a journey of discovery—a journey undertaken both by researchers in their search for knowledge over the past century and by students over the course of the term. The text explains how psychology has expanded our understanding of how people think, feel, and behave, while also motivating you to apply this knowledge to better understand yourself and others. By regularly encouraging you to consider how psychological knowledge relates to your own life, the text places your learning experience within a personally relevant context that benefits retention of course material, while also fostering self-insights that can be applied to your daily living.

The history of psychology is infused with compelling stories of how researchers' intense interest in learning about the nature of human and animal behavior led them on a journey of discovery that eventually culminated in important new knowledge. The fundamental difference between our often informal, anecdotally based personal journeys of discovery and the journeys of discovery found in psychology is that the vehicle employed in the latter journeys is the scientific method. Throughout *Psychology: A Journey of Discovery*, I tell selected discovery stories in psychology so that you will appreciate both the human element and the ever-evolving nature of scientific knowledge and insight.

Following chapter 1's introduction to psychology, which covers the field's history and areas of specialization, chapter 2 is devoted to the vehicle for psychological discovery—research methodology. This chapter provides a solid base for understanding the scientific enterprise of psychology. Each chapter also includes *Discovery Boxes* that discuss selected studies in detail. This emphasis on the scientific enterprise encourages a healthy, scientific skepticism of the many, often contradictory, commonsense truisms we learn from others.

Encouraging Self-Discovery

While encouraging you to analyze the scientific journey of discovery in psychology, the text also facilitates a personal journey of discovery by including over 20 self-report questionnaires that ask you to consider how the specific text material relates to your own life. The self-report questionnaires are those that researchers currently use, and the results of studies employing them are part of the text material. Thus, as you learn about various psychological theories and relevant research findings, you also learn something about yourself.

Applying Psychology to Everyday Experiences

Beyond self-report questionnaires, the text also presents a *Psychological Applications* section at the end of each chapter that demonstrates how psychology can be applied to your life. In these sections, you learn how the theories and research in a particular chapter can be applied to real-world settings. Topics covered in the *Psychological Applications* sections include developing critical thinking skills, learning how to exercise self-control in your academic and personal life, improving everyday memory, understanding test anxiety, coping with jealousy, and many others.

Encouraging Critical Thinking

You can develop an understanding of yourself and others by reading astrological predictions, internalizing the varied messages of popular culture, and uncritically accepting the advice and "wisdom" of friends, family, and (yes!) college professors. Yet, what is the value of this understanding if it is not subjected to critical cognitive analysis? Critical evaluation is an important component of *Psychology: A Journey of Discovery.* Questions in the main body of the text encourage critical thinking by inviting you to guess a study's hypotheses, results, or alternative interpretation of findings. In addition, questions that appear in the captions of figures, tables, and photos inspire further analysis of text material. Each chapter also features *Journey of Discovery Questions*, which require critical analyses of current discussion topics. Possible answers to these questions are provided in an *Appendix* in the print version of the text and are "clickable" in the online version. Strategically placed *Info-bits* in each chapter provide additional information on selected topics. Last, but certainly not least, is a feature unique to the online version of this text: *QuickCheck* interactive questions. These questions test your knowledge on various topics and provide immediate feedback on the extent of your understanding.

Recognizing the Diversity and Unity of People

Integrated within this book's journey of discovery theme is the encouragement to recognize the ways in which people are both similar to and different from one another. *Psychology:* A *Journey of Discovery* tells the story of the science of psychology in such a way that you will recognize the "yin-yang" of unity and diversity, whether you are trying to understand the thoughts, emotions, and behavior of your college roommates or those of people from other cultures.

The text not only analyzes how culture and our individual developmental experiences influence the way we think, feel, and behave, but also examines how humans, as a species, often respond similarly to their physical and social surroundings. The "yin" in this diversity-unity analysis is the sociocultural perspective, while the "yang" is the evolutionary perspective. The text explains that the culture of a people is based on their relationship with the environment, and the evolution of our species is a story of how we have adapted to our surroundings. Thus, just as our bodies and brains are products of evolutionary forces, so, too, is our culture. Yet, cultural change occurs much more rapidly than genetic change. This is why the world's cultures vary greatly, despite little meaningful genetic variation among cultural groups.

Two belief systems that explain how individuals relate to their groups and that are important to understanding the psychology of human behavior are individualism and collectivism. Individualism is a philosophy of life stressing the priority of personal goals over

group goals, a preference for loose-knit social relationships, and a desire to be relatively independent of others' influence. In contrast, collectivism is a philosophy of life stressing the priority of group needs over individual needs, a preference for tightly knit social relationships, and a willingness to submit to the influence of one's group. Although we know that cultures differ in their individualist-collectivist orientations, we do not know whether one is better than the other in any ultimate evolutionary sense. *Psychology: A Journey of Discovery* periodically examines how the psychology of people from different cultures differs due to their individualist-collectivist bents. For those chapter topics where the individualist-collectivist analysis is not especially relevant, other more relevant cultural factors are highlighted.

Pedagogical Aids

Psychology: A Journey of Discovery enhances learning with the following pedagogical devices:

- 1. Each chapter opens with a chapter outline.
- 2. Short-sentence headings compactly summarize the content of chapter sections and facilitate recall of text topics.
- 3. A *summary* at the end of each major chapter section reviews the section's most important concepts.
- 4. In both the print and online versions of the text, key terms and concepts are highlighted and defined on first appearance. In the print version, key terms are also defined in the text margins and listed in alphabetical order at the end of each chapter. A Glossary at the end of the print book presents all of the definitions alphabetically. The online version of the text has "pop-up" definitions of key terms.
- 5. Journey of Discovery Questions within each chapter require critical analyses of current discussion topics. Possible answers are found online, as well as in an appendix at the end of the print book.
- Info-bits briefly describe the results from psychological studies that enhance text material.
- 7. Quotes from famous individuals in other fields illustrate text material.
- 8. *Discovery Boxes* within each chapter enhance your understanding of a variety of topics. See the list of *Discovery Boxes* on page xiv.
- Psychological Applications sections help you to apply each chapter's psychological concepts to real-world situations.
- 10. Suggested Websites at the end of each chapter are online sources that you can access to obtain a better understanding of chapter material.
- 11. Review Questions at the end of each chapter allow you to check your comprehension of the chapter's major concepts.

Online and in Print

Psychology: A Journey of Discovery is available online as well as in print. The online chapters demonstrate how the interactive media components of the text enhance presentation and understanding. For example,

- Animated illustrations help to clarify concepts.
- Self-report questionnaires show you how specific text material relates to your own life.
- QuickCheck interactive questions and chapter quizzes test your knowledge of various topics and provide immediate feedback.
- Clickable glossary terms provide immediate definitions of key concepts.
- The search function allows you to quickly locate discussions of specific topics throughout the text.

You may choose to use just the online version of the text, or both the online and print versions together. This gives you the flexibility to choose which combination of resources works best for you. To assist those who use the online and print versions together, the primary heads and subheads in each chapter are numbered the same. For example, the first primary head in Chapter 1 is labeled 1-1, the second primary head in this chapter is labeled 1-2, and so on. The subheads build from the designation of their corresponding primary head: 1-1a, 1-1b, etc. This numbering system is designed to make moving between the online and print versions as seamless as possible.

Finally, next to a number of figures, tables, and boxes in the print version of the text, you will see an "eye-ear-hand" icon similar to the one on the left. The icon indicates that this figure, table, or box in the online version of the text is interactive in a way that applies, illustrates, or reinforces the concept.

Ancillary Materials

A test item file is available in the ExamView® Pro format. ExamView® Pro enables you to quickly create printed tests for your course using either a Windows or Macintosh computer. You can enter your own questions and customize the appearance of the tests you create. Each chapter has 100 carefully constructed questions, five of which are essay and 95 of which are multiple-choice.

A complete instructor's manual contains learning objectives, lecture suggestions, articles of interest, critical thinking questions, video suggestions, and additional web resources for each chapter.

PowerPoint® presentations (over 200) are available for classroom use of text materials.

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And Finally . . .

I welcome your comments and feedback. Thanks to the online learning environment for Atomic Dog texts, I'll be in a position to incorporate appropriate suggestions several times a year. The prospect of being able to develop a robust exchange of ideas with current users, both students and faculty, is truly exciting. You can reach me at:

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Very best wishes, Steve Franzoi



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