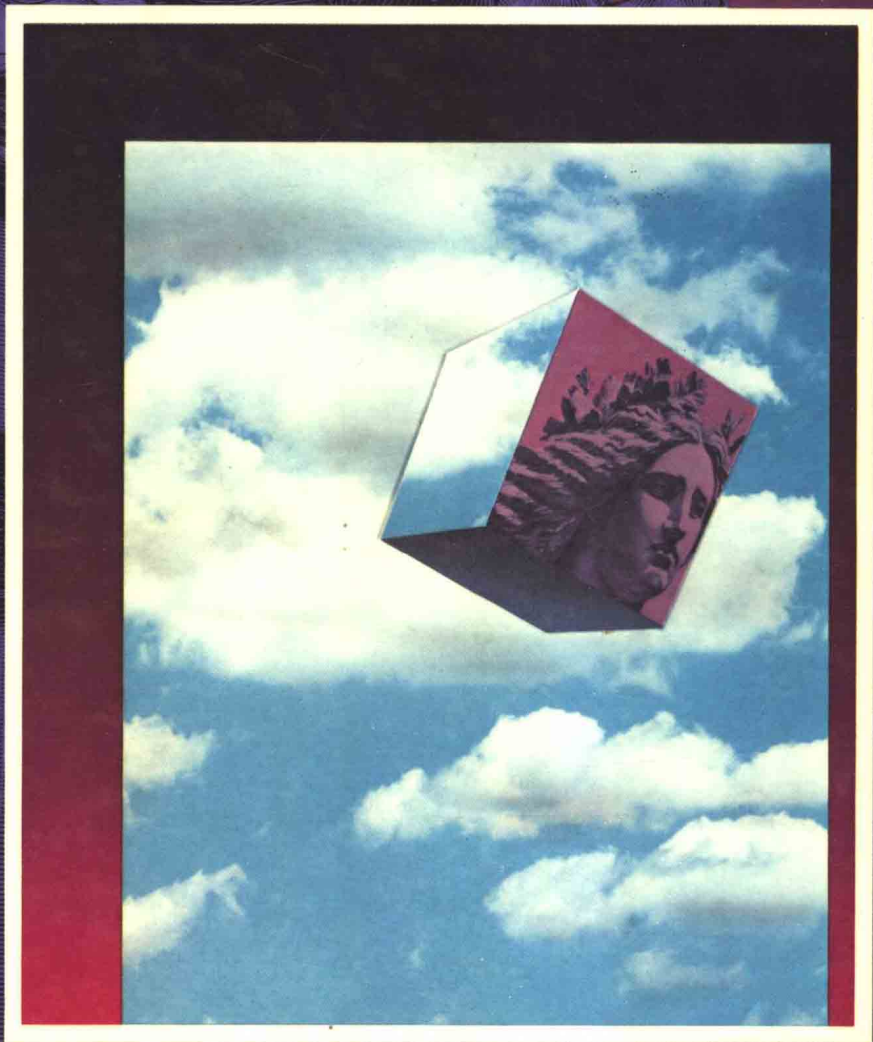


# THINKING ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY



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# Preface

People travel to wonder at the height of mountains, at huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering. (St. Augustine, *The Confessions*, 339 A.D., quoted in *Psychology Today*, July 1979, p. 18.)

**St. Augustine's words aptly express my purpose in writing *Thinking About Psychology*: to share in the act of wondering. St. Augustine's point is an important one: We so often overlook all that is fascinating about our own selves. *Thinking About Psychology* presents a unique blend of scientific and humanistic perspectives in psychology. At the same time, it encourages us to think about the material's relation to the individual reader. The organization of the text, its writing style, and the textual learning aids were selected not only to help you learn the material, but to learn more yourself and those around you.**

## **Coverage**

***Thinking About Psychology* will involve you in the exciting and meaningful journey of psychological concepts. All major topics are covered in a comprehensive manner, with psychological terms clearly defined. A distinctive feature of *Thinking About Psychology* is that it presents a solid research base and a discussion of statistical and research methods early on in the text (Chapter 2). An instructor may choose to omit this chapter, or cover it later on in the course. However, the placement of *scientific methods* at the beginning of the book should convey to you the important role of statistical and research methods to the study of psychology. You will also find expanded coverage of development in chapters 4 and 5. Throughout the book, you will find a unique blend of old and new citations, dating from 1885 to the present. The many illustrations and photographs you will find in *Thinking About Psychology***

were carefully selected to strengthen the discussion and provide you with real-life examples.

## Acknowledgments

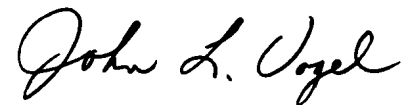
This book has been many years in the writing, absorbing much of my time and energy, and there are many people I wish to thank, both personally and professionally. The following people significantly contributed to the development of this book as consultants and reviewers, and I wish to express my thanks for their important suggestions: Dr. Charles Croll, Broome Community College; Dr. Michael Dwyer, Baldwin-Wallace College; Dr. John Johnson, Weatherford College; Dr. William McReynolds, University of Tampa; Dr. Thomas Mehle, University of Nebraska — Lincoln; Dr. Joseph Palladino, Indiana State University — Evansville; Dr. John Pennachio, Adirondack Community College; Dr. Terry Pettijohn, Ohio State University — Marion; Dr. Andrea Weiss, Drexel University; Dr. Lee Whiteman, Baldwin-Wallace College.

There were also many students and friends who helped with the typing, and the numerous chores associated with putting this package together: Chris Hanczrik, Joyce Kucler, Sara Lee, Vicki Lingswiler, Sharon Miller, Julia Petek, Susan Shriner Procasky, Leslie Schwandt, Helen Smith, Sheri Strzala, Linda Treybig, Michele Welsh.

For personal reasons, I have a special warmth of feeling for people who publish and sell books. I wish to thank John Michel, Nedah Abbott, and Elizabeth A. Poor. I wish to express special gratitude to Alison Podel and Arlene Katz. This team supervised, step by wearisome step, every stage of production. More recently, Ron Warncke and Dick Epler — both at Nelson-Hall — have put the finishing touches on a long and difficult process. All of these people have been complete professionals, demanding precision, but always warmly supportive. My thanks to all of you!

Coming closer to home, I need to take note of the colleagues, administrators, and students at Baldwin-Wallace College. They were kind and supportive throughout the writing of *Thinking About Psychology*. I am proud to be part of such a community.

Finally, there are the kin — and the kindred spirits — some of whom have not lived to read these lines. There were parents, teachers, friends . . . they were people who thought better of me than I thought of myself. I remember and am grateful.



# Contents Overview

<b>1 You and Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Psychology as a Science</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>3 Physiology</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>4 Conception through Infancy</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>5 Growing Years, Adulthood, Aging, and Death</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>6 Learning</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>7 Language, Memory, and Thinking</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>8 Altered States of Consciousness</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>9 Sensation and Perception</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>10 Motivation</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>11 Emotion</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>12 Personality Theory</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>13 Psychological Assessment</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>14 Adjustment</b>	<b>387</b>
<b>15 Behavior Disorders</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>16 Treatment</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>17 Social Processes</b>	<b>477</b>

# Contents

## **Preface** v

<b>1</b>	<b>You and Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
	The Study of Psychology	4
	You and This Book	4
	Other Sources of Material	5
	Meaningfulness, Memory, and Grades	6
	Study Habits	7
	Taking Examinations	8
	<b>What Is Psychology?</b>	<b>9</b>
	Casual Definitions	9
	Commonsense Definition	9
	Better Definitions	11
	<b>Historical Background</b>	<b>11</b>
	Schools of Psychology	12
	End of the Schools	14
	Impact of War	15
	Three Mainstreams	15
	Psychology in the 1980s	16
	<b>Psychologists at Work</b>	<b>16</b>
	Employers and Specialties	17
	Mental Health Professionals	17
	Present and Future	19
	<b>Summary</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Psychology as a Science</b>	<b>23</b>
	Scientific Methodology	24
	Rules of the Game	24
	Steps in the Process	25

Correlational Methods in Research	26
Experimental Methods	27
What to Make of It	28
<b>Organizing the Information</b>	29
Frequency Distribution	30
Measures of Central Tendency	30
Measures of Variability	31
Standard Scores	32
<b>Doing Research</b>	33
<b>Correlation between Variables</b>	34
<b>Correlation and Causation</b>	36
<b>Significance of Difference between Means</b>	37
<b>Issues in Research</b>	38
White Rats and College Students	39
Ethics and Psychological Research	41
Experimenter Effects	42
Mischief in the Laboratory	43
<b>Summary</b>	44
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	45
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	45

## **3** **Physiology** 47

The Neuron	49
The Nervous System	50
<b>Central Nervous System</b>	51
The Brain	51
Studying the Brain	55
Two Brains in One	56
Pleasure Centers	58
The Spinal Cord	60
<b>Peripheral Nervous System</b>	61
Somatic System	63
Autonomic Nervous System	63
Biofeedback	63
<b>Glands and Hormones</b>	66
Duct and Ductless Glands	66
Puberty	67
Pheromones	69
<b>Endorphins and Pain</b>	70
<b>Disorders of the Central Nervous System</b>	71
Dementia	71
Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA)	72
Infections, Injuries, and Tumors	72
Overview of Causes and Outcomes	72
<b>Mind and Matter</b>	73
Brain and Experience	74
<b>Summary</b>	75
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	77
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	77

## **4** **Conception through Infancy** 79

Conception	80
Human Genetics	80



What Is Inherited?	83
Genetic Defects	86
<b>Prenatal Conditions</b>	89
Alcohol and Smoking	89
Emotional Reactions of the Mother	90
Fetal Movements	90
<b>Childbirth</b>	91
Premature Birth	91
Approaches to Childbirth	91
Childbirth Methods	92
<b>Infancy</b>	93
Needs at Birth	93
Just a Baby	95
<b>Summary</b>	98
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	99
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	99

## **5 Growing Years, Adulthood, Aging, and Death** 101

<b>The Growing Years</b>	102
Physical Development	102
Psychosocial Development	104
Cognitive Development	107
Moral Development	110
Sex-Role Development	111
<b>Adulthood and Aging</b>	112
The Young Adult	113
The Middle Years	114
The Later Years	115
<b>Death and Dying</b>	118
Breaking the Silence	118
Euthanasia	120
Causes of Death	120
<b>Summary</b>	121
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	123
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	123

## **6 Learning** 125

<b>Classical Conditioning</b>	127
Extinction and Spontaneous Recovery	129
Generalization	130
Discrimination	131
<i>Higher-Order Conditioning</i>	132
In Our Experience	132
<b>Stimulus-Response (S-R) Bonding</b>	133
<b>Operant Conditioning</b>	135
Contingencies and Behavior Shaping	136
Extinction and Spontaneous Recovery	138
Generalization and Discrimination	138
Schedules of Reinforcement	139
Primary and Secondary Reinforcement	142
In Our Experience	142
<b>Pigeons and Technology</b>	145
<b>Escape and Avoidance Learning</b>	148

**Punishment** 149  
**Cognitive Learning** 151  
 Latent Learning 151  
 Imitation and Modeling 152  
 Expectancies 153  
**Habit** 154  
**Summary** 155  
**Key Terms and Concepts** 157  
**Suggestions for Further Reading** 157

## **7 Language, Memory, and Thinking** 159

**Human Language** 160  
 Origin of Language 161  
 Development of Language 162  
 Theories of Language Development 164  
 Meaning and Structure 166  
 Culture and Language 167  
**Language in Animals** 168  
**Memory** 171  
 Sensory Register 171  
 Short-term Memory 172  
 Long-term Memory 175  
 Types of Memory 178  
 Measuring Memory and Forgetting 179  
 Why We Forget 181  
**Improving Memory** 182  
**Thinking** 184  
 Words and Images 185  
 Learning to Think 186  
 Thought Processes 187  
 Problem Solving 188  
**Autistic Thinking** 191  
**Creative Thinking** 192  
**Summary** 193  
**Key Terms and Concepts** 195  
**Suggestions for Further Reading** 195

## **8 Altered States of Consciousness** 197

**Sleep** 198  
 Sleep Cycles 198  
 Levels of Sleep 201  
 Rapid Eye Movement 202  
**Dreams** 204  
 Content of Dreams 204  
 Interpretation of Dreams 206  
**Disorders of Sleep** 207  
 Insomnia 207  
 Narcolepsy 209  
 Apnea 209  
 Bedtime 209  
**Sleep-Learning, Sleepwalking, and Sleepwalking** 209  
**Hypnosis** 211  
**Meditation** 214

<b>Religious Experience</b>	217
<b>Chemical Effects</b>	219
Alcohol	219
Other Drugs	221
<b>Summary</b>	224
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	225
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	226

## **9 Sensation and Perception** 229

<b>Sensory Stimulation and Receptors</b>	230
Vision	230
Hearing	233
Smell	234
Taste	234
Touch	235
Proprioception	236
<b>Sensory Processes</b>	236
Psychophysics	237
Thresholds	237
Adaptation	239
<b>Perceptual Processes</b>	239
Organizing Tendencies	239
Innate or Learned?	240
<b>What We Notice</b>	244
Attention	244
Perceptual Accentuation	246
Perceptual Defense	246
Subliminal Perception	247
Perceptual Distortions	248
<b>Motives and Values</b>	249
Gateway to Vision	249
Visual Judgments	250
<b>Interpreting the Information</b>	252
Perceptual Constancy	252
Depth and Distance Perception	254
Visual Illusions	255
Apparent Motion	257
<b>Cultural Variables</b>	258
<b>Extrasensory Perception</b>	259
<b>Summary</b>	261
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	262
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	263

## **10 Motivation** 265

<b>Development of Motivational Theory</b>	267
Instincts	267
Primary and Secondary Needs	268
Homeostasis	268
<b>Physiological Motives</b>	269
Hunger	269
Thirst	273
Sleep, Air, and Elimination	273
<b>Other Innate Motives</b>	274

Curiosity	274
Sensory Stimulation	274
<b>Sex</b>	275
Hormones and Learning	275
Sex and Society	276
Masturbation	277
<b>Learned Motives</b>	278
Achievement	278
Fear	280
Aggression	281
Other Learned Motives	282
<b>Manipulation and Incentive</b>	282
Motivational Research	283
Machiavellianism	283
<b>Unconscious Motivation</b>	284
Fear of Success	285
Getting Their Druthers	286
<b>The Whole Person</b>	286
Growth and Deficiency Motivation	287
Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation	288
Mastery and Competence	289
<b>Sociocultural Variables</b>	290
The Protestant Ethic	291
<i>Walden Two</i> and <i>Summerhill</i>	291
Summary	293
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	294
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	295

<b>11 Emotion</b>	297
<b>Experiencing Emotion</b>	299
<b>Expression of Emotion</b>	300
Differentiation	300
Innate or Learned?	301
Naming of Emotions	303
<b>Physiology of Emotion</b>	303
<b>Theories of Emotion</b>	305
<b>Energizing or Debilitating?</b>	308
Optimal Level	309
Helplessness	309
Pain and Pleasure	310
<b>Some Common Emotions</b>	312
Fear	312
Anger	314
Shame and Guilt	315
Depression	315
Love	316
<b>Anxiety and Learning</b>	317
<b>Living with Emotions</b>	318
Self-Control	319
Illness and Health	319
Emotional Maturity	320
Summary	321
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	323
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	323

<b>12</b>	<b>Personality Theory</b>	325
	<b>Psychoanalytic Theory</b>	326
	Life of Freud	326
	Personality Development	328
	Personality Structure	329
	Personality Dynamics	330
	Current Appraisal of Freud	331
	<b>Neo-Freudian Theories</b>	331
	<b>Behaviorism</b>	333
	Watson Said It	333
	Pavlov and Skinner	334
	<b>Type Theory</b>	335
	<b>Trait Theory</b>	337
	<b>Need Theory</b>	338
	<b>Humanism and Phenomenology</b>	340
	Being versus Nonbeing	340
	Self Theory: Rogers	341
	Self-Actualization: Maslow	342
	Field Theory: Lewin	343
	<b>Personal-Construct Theory</b>	344
	<b>Basic Issues in Personality Theory</b>	345
	Assumptions about Human Nature	345
	Similarities or Differences?	345
	Who or What to Study?	346
	Past, Present, or Future?	347
	People and/or Situation?	348
	<b>Recent Developments</b>	348
	Locus of Control	349
	Androgyny	349
	Self-Esteem	350
	<b>Summary</b>	351
	<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	352
	<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	353
<b>13</b>	<b>Psychological Assessment</b>	355
	<b>Good Tests</b>	356
	Reliability	357
	Validity	357
	Standardization	358
	Norms	359
	<b>The Testing Situation</b>	359
	Examiner Effects	360
	Subject Effects	360
	Cultural Factors	361
	<b>Personality and Adjustment</b>	363
	<b>Self-Report Assessment Methods</b>	363
	Projective Techniques	365
	The "Universal Report"	367
	<b>Abilities and Interests</b>	368
	Aptitude and Achievement Tests	368
	Vocational and Interest Tests	369
	Interviews and Rating Scales	370
	Situational Tests	371

<b>Values and Attitudes</b>	372
<b>Intelligence</b>	375
Assessment of Intelligence	376
Innate Racial Differences	379
<b>Issues</b>	381
Antitest Revolt	381
Ethical Standards	382
<b>Summary</b>	383
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	384
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	385

## **14** **Adjustment** 387

<b>Stress and Distress</b>	388
<b>Frustration</b>	389
Types of Frustration	390
Reactions to Frustration	390
<b>Conflict</b>	393
Types of Conflict	393
Common Conflicts	395
<b>Prevalence of Distress</b>	397
<b>Security Operations</b>	398
Self-Concept	399
Protecting the Self-Concept	401
Ego Defense Mechanisms	401
What's Useful about Them	403
What's Wrong with Them	404
<b>Behavioral Circles</b>	405
<b>Problems in Living</b>	405
Games People Play	405
Neurotic Overstriving	407
Who Isn't Crazy?	407
<b>Mental Illness</b>	409
What Is Mental Illness?	409
Myth or Fact?	410
<b>The Medical Model</b>	411
Symptoms	411
Diagnosis or Label?	412
<b>Summary</b>	414
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	415
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	415

## **15** **Behavior Disorders** 417

<b>Anxiety Disorders</b>	418
Generalized Anxiety Disorder	418
Phobic Disorders	418
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder	419
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	420
<b>Depression</b>	420
<b>Somatoform Disorders</b>	422
Conversion Disorder	422
Psychogenic Pain Disorder	423
Hypochondriasis	423
Neurasthenia	424

Dissociative Disorders	424
Neurosis and Psychosis	426
The Psychoses	427
Schizophrenic Disorders	427
Affective Disorders	429
Paranoid Disorders	430
Substance-Use Disorders	431
Psychophysiological Disorders	432
Psychosexual Disorders	433
Disorders of the Early Years	436
Mental Retardation	436
Eating Disorders	437
Stuttering	438
Enuresis	439
Epilepsy	439
Antisocial Personality Disorder	440
Delinquency and Crime	441
Self-Destructive Behavior	442
Summary	443
Key Terms and Concepts	445
Suggestions for Further Reading	445

## **16** Treatment 447

Treatment for What?	448
Asylums of Yesterday	448
Mental Hospitals Today	450
Community Mental Health	453
Medical Therapies	454
Paresis: A Medical Conquest	454
Electroconvulsive Therapy	455
Psychosurgery	456
Drug Therapy	457
Hypnosis and the Doctors	458
Psychotherapy	459
General Principles	459
Psychoanalysis	461
Client-Centered Therapy	462
Behavior Modification	464
Does Psychotherapy Help?	467
Therapy in Groups	468
Group Therapy	468
Encounter Groups	468
Self-Help Groups	469
Crime and Punishment	470
Other Helpers	472
Summary	473
Key Terms and Concepts	475
Suggestions for Further Reading	475

## **17** Social Processes 477

Social Organization	478
Position and Role	478
Homeostasis and Territoriality	480

Dominance	482
Stratification	483
Equality and Equity	484
<b>Individuals and Groups</b>	485
Ethnocentrism	485
Indifference and Apathy	486
Deindividuation	488
<b>Intergroup Conflict</b>	489
<b>Group Decision Making</b>	490
<b>Being Told What to Do</b>	492
Conformity	493
Compliance	494
Obedience	495
<b>Authoritarian Personality</b>	497
<b>Attitudes</b>	498
Persistence and Consistency	498
Attitude Change	500
<b>Attraction and Liking</b>	502
A Final Word	504
Summary	505
<b>Key Terms and Concepts</b>	506
<b>Suggestions for Further Reading</b>	507

**Glossary** 509

**References** 519

**Name Index** 531

**Subject Index** 535



# THINKING ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY