

Classic Studies Overview-AP Psychology

Researcher(s)	Area of Study	Basics of Study	Key Concepts derived or enhanced from research	Text Chapter
Gazzaniga or Sperry	Bio Psych	Key aspects of split brain and how people with this situation will be able to perceive reality and particular sensory stimuli	Split brain	2
Weber	Sensation/ Perception	The amount of change necessary for an observer to report more than 50% of the time that the stimulus has changed or is different	Difference threshold or just-noticeable difference	3
Young-Helmholtz	Sensation/ Perception	There are three types of cones in the retina; red-sensitive, green-sensitive, and blue-sensitive.	Trichromatic theory of color vision	3
Hering	Sensation/ Perception	A theory of color vision that holds that the experience of color involving two sets of color receptors; red-green, blue-yellow, and black-white.	Opponent-processing theory	3
Hobson & McCarley	Sleep or Consciousness	Sleep studies that indicate the brain creates dream states, not information processing or Freudian interpretations	Activation-Synthesis Theory	4
Pavlov	Learning	Began by measuring the salivary reaction of dogs. Ended with a new understanding of associational learning and the conditioned reflex.	Classical conditioning, unconditioned stimulus, conditioned stimulus, unconditioned response, conditioned response	5
Watson & Raynor	Learning	Classical conditioning—conditioned fear into infants (including Little Albert) in order to examine how fears are learned and generalized	Behavioral conditioning Stimulus generalization	5
Garcia	Learning	Gave animal specific food or drinks and then induced sickness or nausea several hours after the food or drink	Conditioned taste aversion/Garcia effect	5
Skinner	Learning	Trained animals to do complex behaviors; e.g. making pigeons exhibit superstitious behavior	Operant conditioning, chaining,	5
Thorndike	Learning	Hungary cat in the box, rewarded behavior is likely to reoccur,	Law of effect Instrumental learning	5
Premack	Learning	Some behavior that happens reliably can be used as a reinforcer	Premack Principle	5
Kohler	Cognition	Experiment with chimpanzees in a cage then in a room trying to get bananas	Insight	5, 7
Tolman	Cognition	Studied rats and discovered the cognitive map in rats and humans	Cognitive map Instrumental learning	5, 7
Bandura	Learning, cognition, personality, abnormal psych, therapy	Bobo doll experiment	Modeling Observational learning Social learning theory Reciprocal determinism Self-efficacy	5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16
Vygotsky	Cognition/ Development	Studied language development and the effect of internal speech on the development of children	Scaffolding Guided participation Zone of proximal development	7, 10
Chomsky	Cognition/ development	Studied language development – applied cognitive and neurobiological theories	Transformational grammar Language acquisition device (aka nativist theory of language acquisition)	7, 10
Whorf	Cognition/ social Psych	Research showed that the language we use (due to culture) determines how we think about the world	Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis	7
Rosch	Cognition	New Guinea study: tribe only had two words for color but know that colors were different, disputes Whorf's theory Concept formation and prototypes	Prototypes & “fuzzy concepts”	7

Researcher(s)	Area of Study	Basics of Study	Key Concepts derived or enhanced from research	Text Chapter
Loftus	Cognition and memory	Showed how easily memories could be changed and falsely created by techniques such as leading questions and illustrating the poverty of accuracy in eyewitness reports.	False memories, memory consolidation	6
Ebbinghaus	Memory	Memory of meaningless words	Decay	6
Zajonc & Markus	IQ and development	Discovered that first born and only children tend to have higher IQs than latter born children	Birth order, first born, middle child, intelligence	8
Terman	IQ and development	Tested group of young geniuses and followed in a longitudinal study that lasted beyond his own lifetime to show that high IQ does not necessarily lead to wonderful things in life. Daniel Goleman followed with EQ or Emotional Quotient that learning how to handle people and your own emotions in social situations can be more helpful than IQ.	IQ, longitudinal study, Emotional quotient	8
Binet	IQ and development	Set out to measure a child's "mental age" or the chronological age typical of a given level of performance	IQ	8
Gardner	IQ and development	Gardner argues that we do not have an intelligence but instead multiple intelligences each relatively independent of each other	Multiple intelligences Savant syndrome	8
Ekman & Friesen	Emotion	Constants across culture in the face and emotion	Universal Emotions (based upon facial expressions)	9
Festinger	Emotion, Social Cognition	Studied and demonstrated cognitive dissonance	Cognitive dissonance	9, 13
Maslow	Motivation, personality	Some needs take priority over others and as those basic needs are satisfied, your desire to achieve other needs would energize and direct your behavior	Hierarchy of needs Self-actualization	9, 12
Masters & Johnson	Motivation	The human sexual response—studied how both men and women respond to and in relation to sexual behavior	Virtually anything sexual was now being talked about publicly	9
James-Lange	Emotion	James-Lange Theory is the belief that emotions occur after people become aware of their physiological response [we cry and then realize that we are sad]	James-Lange Theory of emotion	9
Cannon-Bard	Emotion	This is the belief that emotional and psychological reactions to triggering stimuli occur almost simultaneously	Cannon-Bard theory of emotion	9
Schachter-Singer	Emotion	Emotional experiences involve two factors: a state of general arousal and a cognitive interpretation (perception, memories, interpretations) of the causes of arousal	Schachter-Singer theory of emotion	9
Gibson & Walk	Development	Visual Cliff studies with infants	Visual Cliff	10
Harlow	Development	Cloth monkey and wire monkey mothers: which would the child monkeys go to when scared?	Love, attachment,	10
Piaget	Development	<i>"The development of object concept: The construction of reality in the child."</i> Father of cognitive development, developed first stages to explain cognitive development	Object permanence & constancy Personal fable Imaginary audience	10
Kohlberg	Development	Studied boys responses to and processes of reasoning in making moral decisions. Most famous moral dilemma is "Heinz" who has an ill wife and cannot afford the medication. Should he steal the medication and why?	Moral development Preconventional Conventional Postconventional stages of moral development	10

Researcher(s)	Area of Study	Basics of Study	Key Concepts derived or enhanced from research	Text Chapter
Gilligan	Development	Moral development studies to follow up Kohlberg. She studied girls and women and found that they did not score as high on his six stage scale because they focused more on relationships rather than laws and principles.	Moral development of girls vs. boys critical of Kohlberg	10
Lorenz	Ethology	Did the ducks with imprinting and critical period work	Imprinting Critical periods	10
Seligman	Personality, motivation	Learning to be depressed—the learned helplessness studies with dogs and electric shock	Learned helplessness	9, 12, 13
Freud	Consciousness, Personality, Memory, Development, Abnormal psych and therapy	Case studies of patients with “nervous disorders” led him to conclude many things about a troubled personality as well as personality development	Unconscious mind Defense mechanisms Repressed memories Id, ego, Superego Psychosexual stages Latent/Manifest content Free Association Resistance Transference Counter-transference Symptom substitution	4, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16
Jung	Consciousness, Personality	Discussion and studies dealt with explaining dreams and personality differences	Personal Unconscious Collective Unconscious Mandala Personality Types (E/I, T/F, N/S, & J/P)	4, 12
Adler	Personality	Feelings of inferiority or strive for superiority directly influence development	Inferiority complex	12
Horney	Personality, abnormal psych	Social development key to personality development along with interaction with the unconscious mind	Basic anxiety Basic hostility	12, 15
Rogers	Personality, Therapy	Incongruence between the self and personal experience. Healthy people have congruence between the self and the ideal self	Self Self-concept Unconditional positive regard Client-centered therapy	12, 16
Rotter	Personality	One’s general expectancies about whether one’s efforts can bring about desired outcomes or reinforcement	Internal locus of control External locus of control	12
Rosenthal & Jacobson	Intelligence and learning	Researchers misled teachers into believing that certain students had higher IQs. Teachers changed own behaviors and effectively raised the IQ of the randomly chosen students	Self-fulfilling prophecy, Pygmalion Effect	13
Asch	Social Cognition	Asch deceived subjects by telling them it was a study in perception. He was really testing their conformity levels. Also called “the line study.”	Conformity, group influence, factors increasing conformity	13
Langer & Rodin	Social Psych	The effects of enhanced personal responsibility and helping behavior	Helping behavior, personal responsibility	13
Asch	Social Psych	Opinions and social pressure		13
Darley & Latane	Social Psych	“Bystander Intervention in emergencies: Diffusion of responsibility”	See title of paper	13
Milgram	Social Psych	“Behavioral study of obedience”—wanted to see if Germans were an aberration or if all people were capable of committing evil actions	Shock study, teacher/learner study or obedience study	13
Zimbardo	Social Psych	Prison Study that showed the power of roles in people’s behaviors. When one takes on a role, they will often change their behavior in order to fit the perceived set of expectations for that role.	Role theory	13

Researcher(s)	Area of Study	Basics of Study	Key Concepts derived or enhanced from research	Text Chapter
Muzafer Sherif	Social Psych	The Robbers Cave experiment on intergroup conflict and co-operation	In-group bias Out-group bias	13
Wolpe	Learning/ Therapy	Systematic desensitization work	Systematic desensitization	16
Rorschach	Personality, Testing, Abnormal Psych	Developed a projective test to determine what personality traits or abnormal traits exist in the unconscious mind	Ink-blot, projective test	12, 15