

## PSY10003 Notes

(Disclaimer: images are not my own, sourced through Swinburne University of Technology)

**Psychology**- scientific study of mental processes and behaviours, and how they interact with the environment

**Scientific method**- gather evidence, controlled experiments, analyse results, apply findings

**Psychological viewpoints**

**Paradigm**- broad system of assumptions

**Structuralism**- structure is more important than function (Wilhelm Wundt)

**Functionalism**- consciousness serves a purpose (William James)

**Psychodynamic**- conscious and unconscious forces control thoughts and behaviours (Sigmund Freud)

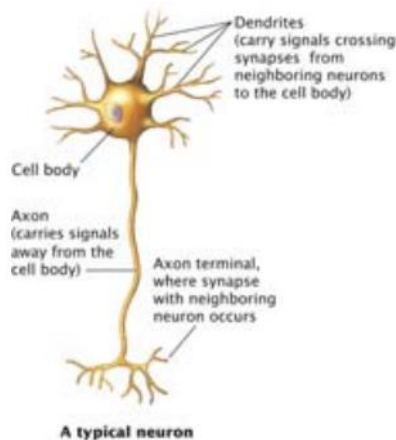
**Iceberg perspective**- most motivations for behaviour cannot be seen (are in the mind or 'below the surface')

**Behaviourism**- environmental stimuli controls learning (John B Watson/ B F Skinner)

**Humanistic**- self-actualization, personal motivations control thoughts and behaviours (Carl Rogers)

**Cognitive**- mind is equivalent to a computer

**Evolutionary**- behaviours are adapted for survival



### Neurons

**Neurotransmitter**- chemical that carries a nerve impulse across a synapse

**Dendrites**- carries signal into neuron

**Cell body**- contains nucleus

**Axon**- carries signals away from cell body (thicker = quicker signal)

**Terminal button**- end of axon, contains neurotransmitter

**Myelin sheath**- insulates segments of axon externally, speeds up signal transmission

**Nodes of Ranvier**- exposed axon between myelin sheaths

**Axon terminal**- sends information across the synapse (neurotransmitters released from vesicles in the ends or 'buttons')