

2006PSY Chapter study notes

Week one (Chapter one)

1. What is cognitive psychology?
2. How did psychology develop as a science?
3. How have other disciplines contributed to the development of theory and research in cognitive psychology?
4. What methods do cognitive psychologists use to study how people think?
5. What are the current issues and various fields of study within cognitive psychology?

Cocktail party effect:

➤ Hearing your name in a crowded room/party that is loud and suddenly you hear your name mentioned in another conversation even though you were not listening in on the conversations around you.

Cognitive psychology defined:

- The study of how people perceive, learn, remember and think about information.
- A cognitive psychologist may study how people perceive shapes, why they remember some facts and not others or how they learn languages.

Availability heuristic:

- The use of this allows us to make judgments on the basis of how easily we can call to mind what we perceive as relevant

instances of a phenomenon.

Dialectic progression of thought (Georg Hegel):

- •Progression of ideas involves a dialectic; a developmental process where ideas evolve over time through a pattern of transformation
- •Important because we are tempted to think one view is right and the other is wrong.
- •Asian cultures more dialectical in thinking and European and North American cultures are more linear in thinking.
- •Western cultures process objects independently of context and Eastern cultures process objects in conjunction with surrounding context.
- •The pattern in a dialectic:
 1. A thesis is proposed: a statement of belief.
 2. Antithesis emerges: a statement that counters a previous statement of belief.
 3. A synthesis integrates the viewpoints: synthesis integrates the most credible features of each of the two (more) views.

Philosophical antecedents of psychology: Rationalism vs. Empiricism: Earliest roots of psychology:

- •Philosophy: seeks to understand the general nature of many aspects of the world, through introspection (examination of inner ideas/experiences through “intro-inward and spect-look”)

