

PSYC1001 Notes

Table of Contents

History and Philosophical Foundations

Emotion

Science and Statistics

Social Psychology

Personality

Developmental Psychology

History and Philosophical Foundations

Philosophy

Terms

Zeitgeist

- “Spirit of the times”
- Those who have ideas that spread are in the zeitgeist
- Victor Hugo and George Hegel quotes

Presentist Bias

- The tendency to discuss and analyse past ideas, people, and events in terms of the present ideas, people and events

Western Bias

- Interpreting and judging phenomena by standards inherent to one's own culture

Confirmation Bias

- The tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories.

Nature

- Most knowledge is given to us at birth

Nurture

- One gains knowledge from learning

Nativism

- Supports nature
- The theory that concepts, mental capacities, and mental structures are innate rather than acquired by learning

Empiricism

- Supports Nurture
- The theory that all knowledge is based on experience derived from the senses.

Monism

- Materialism (body)
 - Everything is purely physical (there is only body – tissue)

- Mentalism (mind)
 - Reality only exists in the mind (tree falling in the forest)

Dualism

- Both the body and mind exist
- They interact with each other (interactionism)

People

Aristotle

- Tabula Rasa (almost empiricism)
 - Knowledge must be gained through experience

Plato

- Rationalism (rejected empiricism)
 - Truth is in ideas
 - It's not passive, it's active
- Experiments
 - Plato's triangle
 - All triangles are the same, even though we cannot be able to see them all
 - Cave example

Rene Descartes – First nativist (rationalist) and interactionist

- Nativist (rationalist)
 - He was known as a disbeliever of everything (sceptical)
 - He stated that empiricism is wrong and we could not be sure of anything
 - The only thing he was sure of was that he existed
 - "I think therefore I am"
- The body and mind interact
 - Interact in the pineal gland
 - The pineal gland was unitary like the soul (he was wrong about that)
 - Close to the ventricles the cerebrospinal fluid delivered messages to the nerves that resulted in behaviour

John Locke

- Empiricist
 - "Nothing is in the mind which was not first in the senses"
 - We are born knowing nothing and all our knowledge comes from sense data
 - Just because your senses tell you something, doesn't mean you can trust it
 - Primary and secondary qualities

George Berkley

- Empiricist
- Mentalist
 - Reality only exists in the mind (tree falling in the forest)
 - You need to consider secondary qualities when determining primary qualities therefore everything is in one's mind

William Molyneux

- Molyneux's problem
 - If someone is born blind, can they recognize a globe and cube by sight?