

THE MAJOR SCHOOLS OF PSYCHOLOGY

Structuralism





Structuralism focused on studying the conscious experience by looking into its individual parts or elements



Wilhelm Wundt

Structuralists were interested in finding the basic components of the mind and they interacted with each other, the way they do to form conscious experience.



Structuralists believed that sensations are the basic elements of consciousness for example the sensation of taste.



**Considered the FIRST school of psychology.
Applied knowledge was not emphasized, only the
structure of knowledge was.**



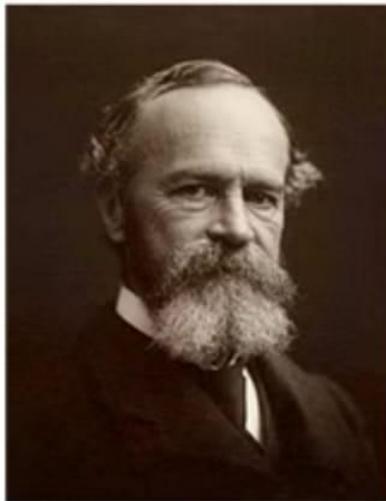
The process of introspection, or looking deeper into ones self, was used to understand and interpret the conscious mind.

Functionalism

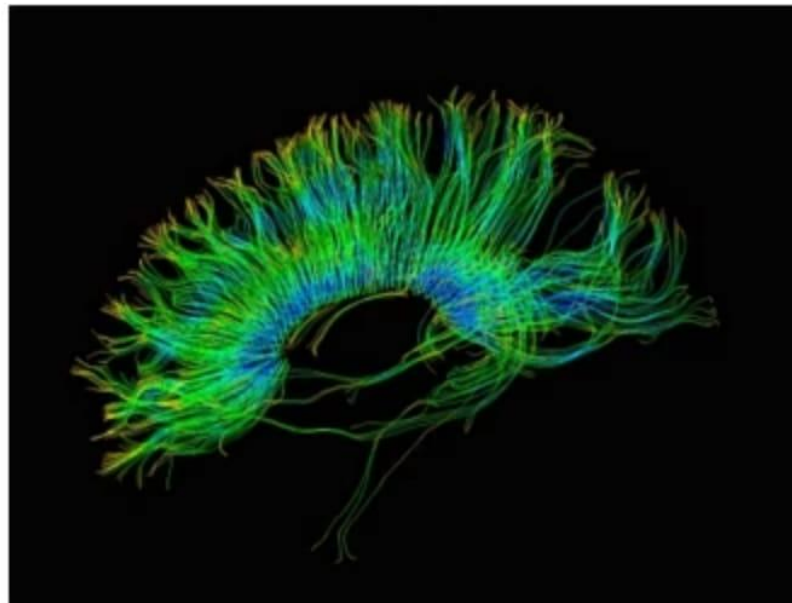




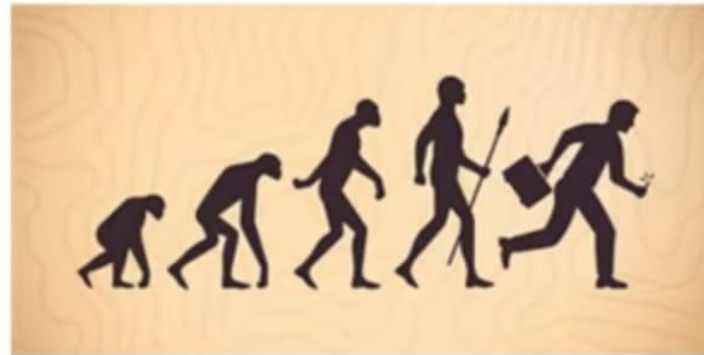
Functionalism refers to the idea, that if we are to study human behavior, we must study functions of consciousness.



Founded by William James, also known as the founder of American Psychology.



**Emphasized “function” rather than “Structure”
of human consciousness as in what the mind
does**



This psychological field is interested in the process that helped the humans (and animals) adapt to their environment.



Stressed the importance of empirical, rational thought and how the conscious is related to behavior

How Structuralism and Functionalism Influenced Modern Psychology



Structuralism

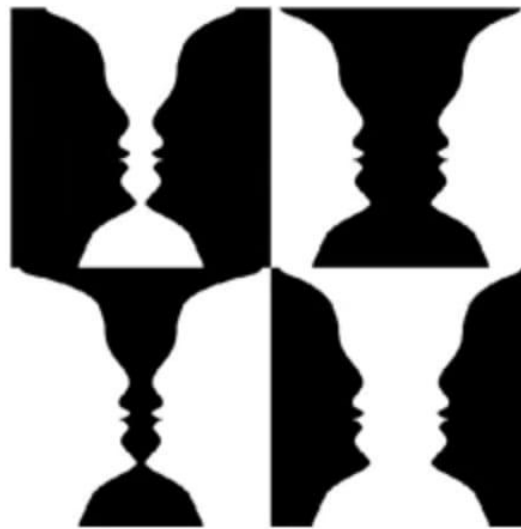
- The first major school of thought in psychology
- Utilized introspection to break down mental processes
- Results had a lack of reliability

Functionalism

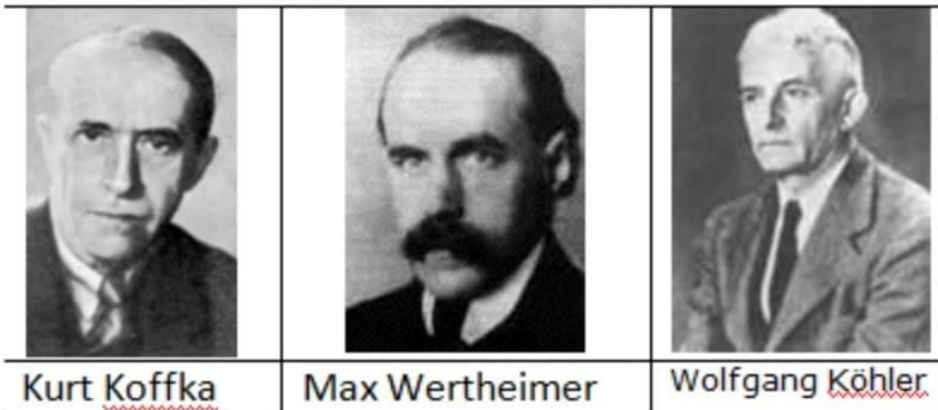
- Focused on the purpose of consciousness and behavior
- Emphasized individual differences
- Influenced the educational system

Gestalt Psychology

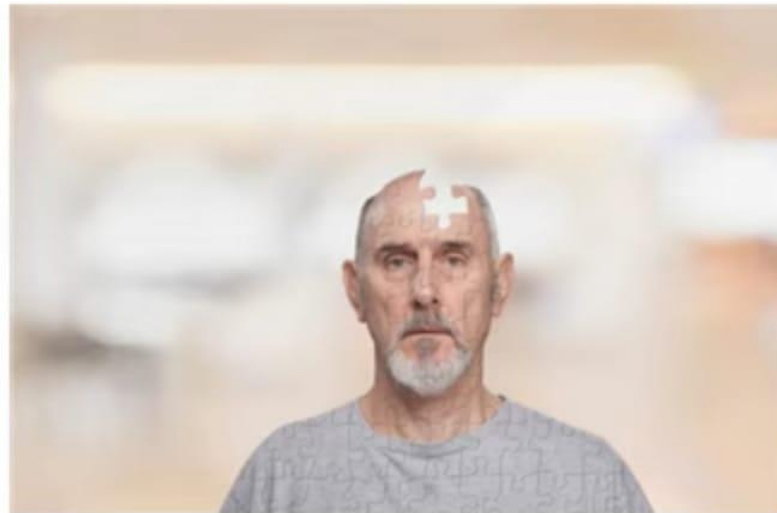




Gestalt psychology is a school of thought that believes all objects and scenes can be observed in their most simplest forms



Three German psychologists Max Wertheimer, Kurt Koffka and Wolfgang Kohler were regarded as the founders of gestalt school



The main concept that the Gestaltists posed was that the whole is MORE than the sum of its parts



They concentrated on how people consider individual elements together as units or wholes. Plus they viewed learning as a reorganizing of a whole situation

Behaviourism





Focuses on studying the behavior that is observable.



States that Psychology should be seen as a science, to be studied in a scientific manner.



Behaviorism is primarily concerned with observable behavior, rather than internal events like thinking.



Behavior is the result of stimulus and its response



Behavior is determined by the environment where conditioning could be led by reward or punishment.

Psychoanalysis

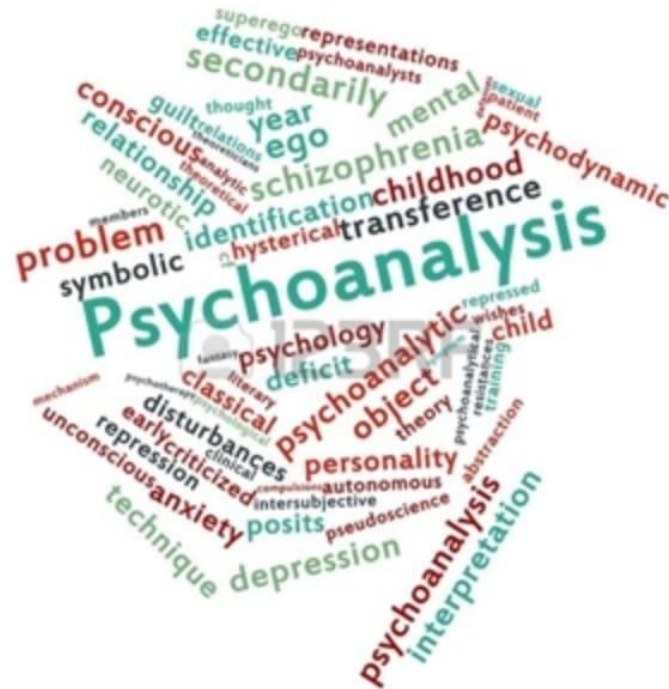




Focuses on the unconscious forces that affect human behavior.



Major founders to Psychoanalysis are Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, others included Anna Freud, Alfred Adler, Wilfred Bion, Nancy Chodorow, Erik Erikson and many more.



Different parts of the unconscious mind are in constant struggle and all behavior has a cause and reason.



Other factors of Psychoanalysis is that our behavior and feelings as adults are rooted in our childhood experiences. Especially psychological problems.

Humanistic Psychology





Humanistic psychologists look at human behavior not only through the eyes of the observer, but through the eyes of the person doing the behaving.



Abraham
Maslow



Charlotte Bühler



Carl Rogers

The above contributed greatly on Humanistic Psychology



Humanistic Psychology suggests that people are in control of their lives. Humans have free will; not all behavior is determined.



A proper understanding of human behavior can only be achieved by studying humans - not animals.

Cognitivism

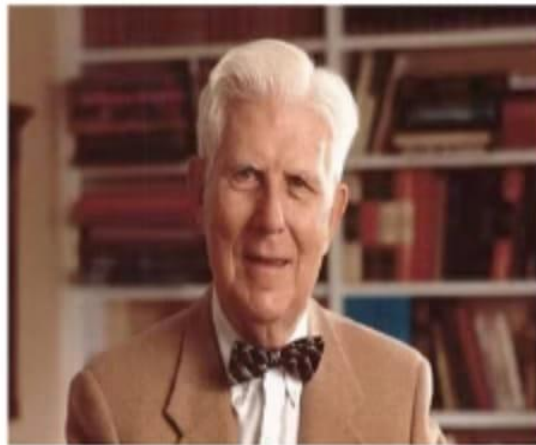




This psychological model focuses on how people know, understand and thinks about the world.



Cognitive psychology is a pure science, based mainly on laboratory experiments.



**Important Developers of this psychology are
Albert Ellis and Aaron Beck**



Behavior can be largely explained in terms of how the mind operates such as the information processing approach.



**The mind works in a way similar to a computer
e.g. inputting, storing and retrieving data.**



Thought processes occur between stimulus and response.

Social Psychology



			
Floyd Allport	Gordon Allport	Solomon Asch	Roger Brown
			
Kenneth Clark	Donald T. Campbell	Evelyn Hooker	Carl Hovland
			
Mamie Clark	Fritz Heider	Leon Festinger	Kurt Lewin

There are a large number of contributors to the field of Social Psychology



Social Psychology helps to study of effect of others in society on one's thoughts feelings and actions.



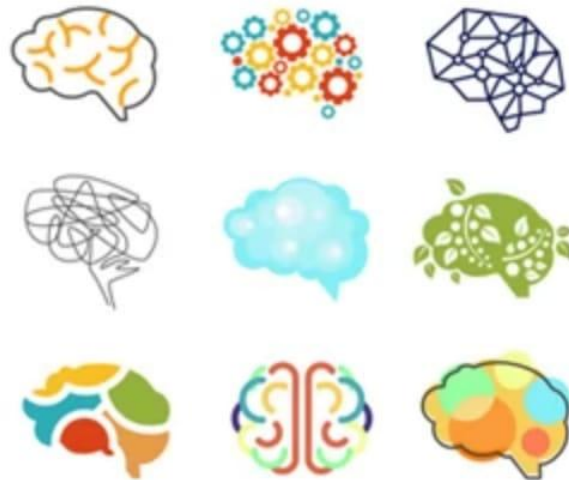
It is meant to solve social problems like aggression, prejudice, gender roles and more.



All behavior occurs in a social context, even when nobody else is physically present



A major influence on people's behavior, thought processes and emotions are OTHER people and the society they have created.



These Psychological movements or Schools made inroads into understanding the human psyche. There were others, but what will the future bring in the field of Psychology?