

^{alienated} chances are you're enrolling in Psych 100 because you want to find out something about the way the human mind works, why people feel and act the way they do, ^{challenge} understand yourself, why you feel frustrated + shitty, how you make yourself feel better. ^{frustrating yourself etc other course bullshit} relevant to yr life as Chem 100

chances are you're enrolling in Psych 100 because... well, as everyone knows, mainly because it's easy + you can get a good mark and pass the year and get your degree(s) and get a good job, ^{and love make} and a lotta money ^{so you can lead} and live a happy life or so you can afford a good psychiatrist if it all turns out not so happy.

But then, chances are you have some notion about psych 100 being different from your ~~off~~ other courses. You've already found out in high school that English + history + physics and math are mostly bullshit and are completely irrelevant to the things you're really interested in + it's a drag memorizing all that crap just to forget it the day after the exam.

It's pretty natural to hope that psychology will be different; ~~Psychology is supposed to be about the human mind~~ That it will teach you something about why people feel + act + think the way they do; that it will help you understand yourself better and your culture the world you live in. Psychology is supposed to be abt the human mind, + since you have one, it ought to be abt the things that are of real concern to you: love + sex + family ~~and~~ work, ~~and~~ dope, rock music, the

your society makes you feel
The purpose of life, why you feel frustrated, insecure &
Shitty, ^{alone} so much of the time, what you can do to make your
life more meaningful.

Psychology ought to be abt these issues, but it has as much to
do with them as chemistry, too does. In fact, your Psych instructor
will tell you quite openly that it's immature of you to expect
to deal with such topics. Psychology, he'll tell you, is the
science of behavior; if you go along w him for that point,
you'll be off on a meaningless journey through an intellectual
wasteland filled with studies about rats running mazes and
people acting like robots in laboratories. Don't take my word for
it; you'll find out for yourself. And if you think it'll get
become more relevant as you get deeper into it, you'll find it
gets worse, not better.

Psychology as science. Psychology is not a science, nor should it be.
Science is a philosophy & system of methods devised over the past
~~few hundred years~~ designed to control & ^{accurately} predict physical events.
Since the ^{birth} beginnings of psychology 100 years ago, psychologists have
been so entranced by the undeniable achievements of physical
sciences (including the production of enough weaponry to destroy
the world 100 times over) that they have tried to model psychology
after ^{chem + physics} physics & chemistry. But molecules & atom bombs don't have
experience; they don't feel love, joy or anger or misery. So to imitate
their big brother scientists, psychologists have cut out all that is
most vital ⁱⁿ human life & have focused their attention on
behavior which can be objectively ^{the chemical reactions and pendulums} (& boringly) studied.

Psychology tries to make its human subject-matter inhuman. ~~The methods of science allow it to do just that.~~ It produces ~~models~~ ^{models} that ~~compare~~ compare human life with

It produces models comparing human activity to the behaviour of rodents and human thought to the workings of computers. Psychology is the ^{alienated} study of alienated man.

The methods of science fit in perfectly with this alienated outlook. ~~Science~~ The scientific method controls, predicts, manipulates. Watch for these terms in the course & remember that they have a human (or rather inhuman) meaning that is not accidental. Challenge your instructor when he uses them. Ask him why you have to control, predict & manipulate to understand people. Ask him why you have to use statistics that completely ignore the individual. Ask him why you have to study people in a laboratory, which is the most unnatural setting imaginable. Ask him why there is so much deceit and lying in experiments - why ^{the} experimenters tell the subject one thing when he means another.

If he tells you that you should familiarize yourself with these (inhuman) methods before you criticize them, tell him that's bullshit. That's what they told me for 2 years as a graduate student. Now, I'm familiar with the methods & I know they're bullshit. I think it's a waste of time for anyone to study psychology as it's taught at USC. If you want to learn about human life, begin with the attitude that people have integrity and dignity and don't get led on a wild goose chase treating people like objects.

There's one more dimension to the poverty of psychology & that is the political. People are treated like subjects in almost all spheres of Canadian society. People are alienated; we don't have control over our lives; ~~other~~ others in power do control and manipulate us — in schools, in factories, in businesses, in housing in the military, ~~in mental hospitals~~ ^{etc etc}. Psychology is one of the many tools used by the people in power ~~to~~ control & manipulate. Ninety-nine percent of the funding for Ψ research comes from government, industry or the military. They provide funds because Ψ produces the results they want. ~~The alienated outlook~~ ^{perspective} underlying the material you'll study in $\Psi 100$. The fields of applied Ψ , (that is, the uses to which Ψ is put in the real world) grow logically from the out of the alienated ~~outlook~~ view of man taught in UBC psych courses.

Educational Ψ is used in schools to break the will of children & turn them into well-behaved robots.

Military Ψ is used to train people to be more effective killers; to make Vietnamese peasants docile in concentration camps called pacification centers.

Marketing research psychology is used to

Indust. Ψ

Clin Ψ

Hang onto this. Follow up.

Wed. Sept 1st

Alternate Reading List

Mills - Sociological Imagination

Marx - Error of Civilization

Brown - Life Against Death

Roszak - Making of a Counterculture

Fromm - The Sane Society (?)

Laing - ^{Marx's Concept of man} Divided Self, Politics of Experience

Perls - Gestalt Therapy Verbatim

Reich - Mass Psychology of Fascism

Friedenberg - Youth & other Atavisms

Goodman - Compulsory Miseducation

Marx - Economic & Philosophical Manuscripts

Szasz - Law, Liberty & Psychiatry

Fannon

Black Skin, White Masks

