

Classic Studies Overview-AP Psychology

Researcher(s)	Area of Study	Basics of Study	Key Concepts derived from or enhanced from research	Text Chapter
Gazzaniga or Sperry	Bio Psych	Key aspects of split brain and how people with this situation will be able to perceive reality and particular sensory stimuli	Split brain	
Tolman	Cognition	Studied rats and discovered the cognitive map in rats and humans	Cognitive map	
Loftus	Cognition and memory	Showed how easily memories could be changed and falsely created by techniques such as leading questions and illustrating the poverty of accuracy in eyewitness reports.	False memories, memory consolidation	
Gibson & Walk	Development	Visual Cliff studies with infants	Visual Cliff	
Harlow	Development	Cloth monkey and wire monkey mothers: which would the child monkeys go to when scared?	Love, attachment,	
Piaget	Development	<i>"The development of object concept: The construction of reality in the child."</i>	Object permanence, perception of reality by children, development of cognition	
Zajonc & Markus	Development	Discovered that first born and only children tend to have higher IQs than latter born children	Birth order, first born, middle child, intelligence	
Kohlberg	Development	Studied boys responses to and processes of reasoning in making moral decisions. Most famous moral dilemma is "Heinz" who has an ill wife and cannot afford the medication. Should he steal the medication and why?	Moral development Preconventional Conventional Postconventional stages of moral development	
Gilligan	Development	Did moral development studies to follow up Kohlberg. She studied girls and women and found that they did not score as high on his six stage scale because they focused more on relationships rather than laws and principles. Different reasoning, not better or worse		
Ekman & Friesen	Emotion	Constants across culture in the face and emotion	Universal Emotions (based upon facial expressions)	
Festinger	Emotion, Social Cognition	Studied and demonstrated cognitive dissonance	Cognitive dissonance	
Schacter	Emotions	Worked with emotions and modified theory of emotions to include cognitions and their role in the formation of emotions		
Lorenz	Ethology	Did the ducks with imprinting and critical period work	Imprinting Critical periods	
Rosenthal & Jacobson	Intelligence and learning	Researchers misled teachers into believing that certain students had higher IQs. Teachers changed own behaviors and effectively raised the IQ of the randomly chosen students	Self-fulfilling prophecy, Pygmalion Effect	
Terman	IQ and development	Tested group of young geniuses and followed in a longitudinal study that lasted beyond his own lifetime to show that high IQ does not necessarily lead to wonderful things in life. Daniel Goleman followed with EQ or Emotional Quotient that learning how to handle people and your own emotions in social situations can be more helpful than IQ.	IQ, longitudinal study, Emotional quotient	

Pavlov	Learning	Began by measuring the salivary reaction of dogs. Ended with a new understanding of associational learning and the conditioned reflex.	Classical conditioning, unconditioned stimulus, conditioned stimulus, unconditioned response, conditioned response	
Watson & Raynor	Learning	Classical conditioning—conditioned fear into infants (including Little Albert) in order to examine how fears are learned and generalized	Classical conditioning terms, behavioral conditioning	
Skinner	Learning	Trained animals to do complex behaviors; e.g. making pigeons exhibit superstitious behavior	Operant conditioning, chaining,	
Wolpe	Learning/Therapy	Systematic desensitization work	Systematic desensitization	
Ebbinghaus	Memory	Memory of meaningless words		
Masters & Johnson	Motivation	The human sexual response—studied how both men and women respond to and in relation to sexual behavior	Virtually anything sexual was now being talked about publicly	
Holmes & Rahe	Motivation	Using a “social readjustment scale” to measure stress	Stress and coping	
Seligman	Personality	Learning to be depressed—the learned helplessness studies with dogs and electric shock	Learned helplessness	
Freud	Personality	“The ego and the mechanisms of defense.”	Defense mechanisms, ego, displacement, sublimation, projection, repression, regression, etc.	
Rorschach	Personality Testing	“Psychodiagnostics: A diagnostic test based on perception.”	Ink-blot, projective test	
Rosenhan	Psychopathology or Social Psych	Rosenhan and colleagues checked selves into mental hospitals with symptoms of hearing voices say “empty, dull and thud.” Diagnosed with schizophrenia. After entered, acted normally. Never “cleared” of diagnosis. Roles and labels in treating people differently.		
Hobson & McCarley	Sleep or Consciousness	Sleep studies that indicate the brain creates dream states, not information processing or Freudian interpretations	Activation-Synthesis Theory	
Asch	Social Cognition	Asch deceived subjects by telling them it was a study in perception. He was really testing their conformity levels. Also called “the line study.”	Conformity, group influence, factors increasing conformity	
Langer & Rodin	Social Psych	The effects of enhanced personal responsibility and helping behavior	Helping behavior, personal responsibility	
Asch	Social Psych	Opinions and social pressure		
Darley & Latane	Social Psych	“Bystander Intervention in emergencies: Diffusion of responsibility”	See title of paper	
Milgram	Social Psych	“Behavioral study of obedience”—wanted to see if Germans were an aberration or if all people were capable of committing evil actions	Shock study, teacher/learner study or obedience study	
Zimbardo	Social Psych	Prison Study that showed the power of roles in people’s behaviors. When one takes on a role, they will often change their behavior in order to fit the perceived set of expectations for that role.		