

### Directions for First Exam

Bring *two* bluebooks available in the university bookstore with *nothing* written in or on them (not even your name). These may be redistributed at the time of the exam.

The exam will consist of the two parts, for which the instructions are as follows:

Part A. Answer each of the following six questions in two to three sentences each. Each question is worth up to 5 points (30 points total).

Part B. Address the following two questions in an essay (35 points each). Be as thorough and complete as possible in answering the question within the time allowed. Keep your essay focused on the question—extraneous material can detract from the quality of the essay. Address your essay to an intelligent reader who does not know the material you are asked to cover.

#### The following are the question from which the six that will appear in Part A will be drawn:

How does Aristotle mean by the conceptions *matter* and *form*?

What does Aristotle mean by saying the soul is what actualizes the body?

What are the properties of the animal soul for Aristotle?

What is a final cause for Aristotle?

How does Descartes propose to explain any behavior performed by animals?

What human activities for Descartes defy mechanistic explanation?

For what purpose does Descartes engage in the project of raising doubts?

How did Brentano distinguish genetic and descriptive psychology?

What key feature of mental states did Brentano designate with the word *intentionality*?

Why did Brentano characterize the relation between a thought and its intentional object as a quasi-relation, rather than as a relation?

To illustrate the difference for Brentano between a presentation and a judgment, give an example of each.

What key idea did James adopt from Darwin?

What was Huxley's conscious automaton theory?

What feature of consciousness does James seek to capture in comparing it to a stream?

How did James respond to the claim that according to scientific accounts, all our actions are determined?

What two things are related in a psychophysical law?

What is a *just noticeable difference*?

What are nonsense syllables and what are they used for?

What is the spacing effect discovered by Ebbinghaus?

What did Pavlov mean by *psychic secretion*?

What is a *reflex* for Pavlov?

What distinguishes a structuralist approach to psychology?

What distinguishes a functionalist approach to psychology?

What was Watson's view about introspection?

For Watson, what should be the objective in a behaviorist study of emotions?

**For Part B, I will choose two of the following three questions:**

1. Contrast Descartes' and Aristotle's approach to mental phenomena. How do they differ in their approach to identifying mental phenomena? How do they differ in their characterization of mental phenomena? Are there also points of agreement in their accounts?
2. James says of consciousness "I mean . . . to deny that the word stands for an entity, but to insist most emphatically that it stands for a function." What does he mean by this? What is it to be a function and how does James develop his account of consciousness as a function. Be specific about how he construes consciousness. How, in this respect, is his position similar or different to that advanced by Descartes?
3. What is Huxley's conscious automaton theory? Describe in some detail how James argues against it. Put yourself in Huxley's position—what are the possible responses he might make to James? Which would be his best response?
4. Brentano distinguishes *genetic* and *descriptive* psychology. What are the differences between the two projects? Take Brentano's own work as illustrative of descriptive psychology and Ebbinghaus's research as representative of genetic psychology. What are the differences between the approaches? What can each hope to teach about mental phenomena?
5. Both Weber and Fechner on the one hand and Ebbinghaus on the other sought to discover mathematical regularities involving what would traditionally have been taken to be mental phenomena outside the realm of experimental inquiry. Describe each of their approaches and what they claim to have established. To what degree does their research succeed in addressing mental phenomena? Are there respects in which it is inadequate?
6. Imagine that you are Descartes and made a visit to Pavlov's laboratory and that Pavlov took time to show you examples of the research he conducted. You set out to write a report in which you convey your impressions of his research and the ways in which it contributes to our knowledge. Write the report you think Descartes might have written. Be specific both about the research you observed and what you think it does and does not show.
7. Construct a dialog between James and Watson in which each presents his preferred conception of psychology, defends it, and criticizes that of the other. Be as clear as possible about how each construes psychology and what it is supposed to do and on the points of difference between them.