

# Chapter 1: Introduction

51

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Copyright © 2023 Michael Diehr  
All Rights Reserved  
For use only by students enrolled  
in my sections of Psyc 402  
through the end of the semester.  
May not be posted, shared or uploaded  
online without permission.

52

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

## Basic Concepts

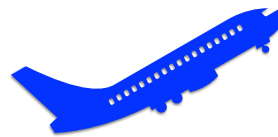
- What is a psychological test
  - measurement device or technique
  - quantifies behavior
  - used to make predictions
  - (often) composed of individual items
  - (often) scored against normative data

53

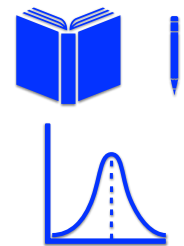
Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

## Why use tests?

Goal: measure Piloting Skills



Test Flight:  
Does the pilot crash?



Paper & Pencil Test:  
Highest Score?

54

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

## Why use tests?

- Why use tests? vs. the alternative -- just measure the thing directly
  - faster - saves time
  - more convenient, portable, virtual
  - standardize across space & time
  - less dangerous (e.g. brain surgeon)
  - more accurate(?)
  - \$\$\$\$ profit

55

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

## Arguments against testing

- UnReliable -- inconsistent results
- InValid -- doesn't measure what it claims
- Biased -- treats sub groups differently
- Enforced conformity -- punishes creativity
- People & Institutions adapt -- "study for the test", specialized tutoring
- Expensive -- few large private companies hold most of the business
- Privacy & Security & Cheating

56

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Diehr

## Test types: administration

- Types of tests:
  - Individually-administered Tests
  - Group-administered Tests
  - Computerized (?)

57

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Test types: domains

- Ability, Capacity or Potential
  - **Achievement**
    - learned skills or knowledge in specific area
  - **Aptitude**
    - ability to learn new skills / knowledge in specific area
  - **Intelligence**
    - general ability

58

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Test types: more domains

- Personality
  - Structured (“Objective”)
  - Unstructured (“Projective”)
- Military & Civil Service
- Vocational Counseling
- Industry / Business
- Clinical Psychology / Psychiatry
- Health Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Research

59

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History - Antiquity

60

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History : China

- Han Dynasty (206 BCE thru 220 CE) had test batteries for law, military, agriculture, geography, etc.
- The “Imperial Examination”
- Standardized tests (but not *Psychological tests*)
- In mid 1800s, British contact with China led to UK beginning testing
- Spreads to USA in late 1800s.

61

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Gold, silver, brass & iron

“Citizens, we shall say to them in our tale, you are brothers, yet God has framed you differently. Some of you have the power of command, and in the composition of these he has mingled gold, wherefore also they have the greatest honor; others he has made of silver, to be auxiliaries; others again who are to be husbandmen and craftsmen he has composed of brass and iron; and the species will generally be preserved in the children. But as all are of the same original stock, a golden parent will sometimes have a silver son, or a silver parent a golden son.”

-- Plato, *The Republic*, circa 380 BC

64

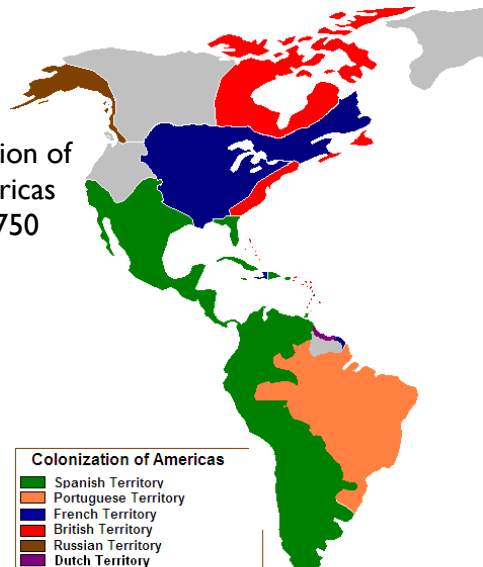
Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Ch. 1 - Part 2

67

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

### Colonization of the Americas circa 1750



Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History : 18th - 19th Century

- The zeitgeist : colonialism, independence, contact between new races & ethnicities. Slavery.
- The needs: justify slavery, inequality.
- The techniques: very crude statistics, physical measurements
- Evolution vs. Creationism

76

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Racial Attitudes of the 1800s

"[...]There is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will for ever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

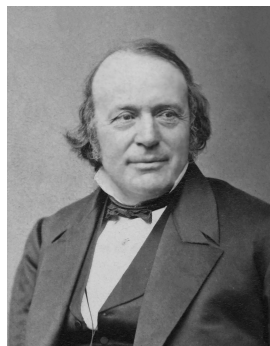
-- 1858, in a debate with Stephen Douglas  
Abraham Lincoln

77

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Louis Agassiz

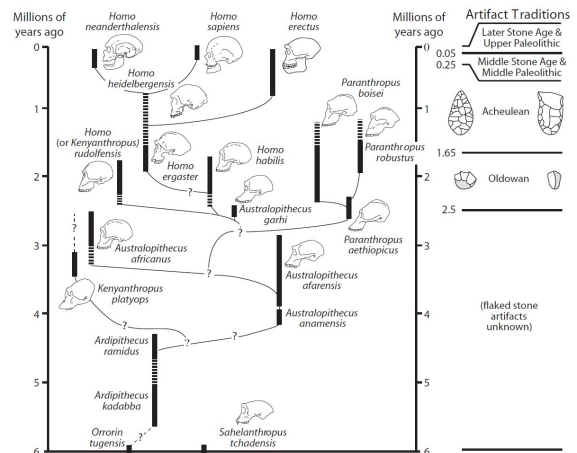
- Swiss-born, European-trained biologist / geologist
- Came to Harvard in 1847
- Creationist -> Polygenist
- Taxonomist
- Resisted Darwin's theory of Evolution
- d. 1873



81

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Taxonomy



88

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Species

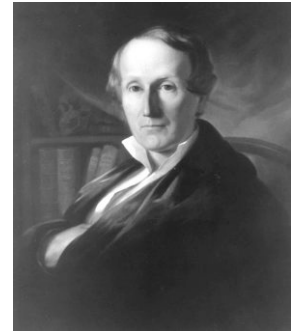
- Old definition:
  - group of organisms that can breed
- Modern definition:
  - “Species are actual or potential interbreeding populations sharing common gene pool, reproductively isolated from other groups.”
- Example:
  - male donkey + female horse = mule (sterile)
  - female donkey + male horse = hinny

89

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Samuel George Morton

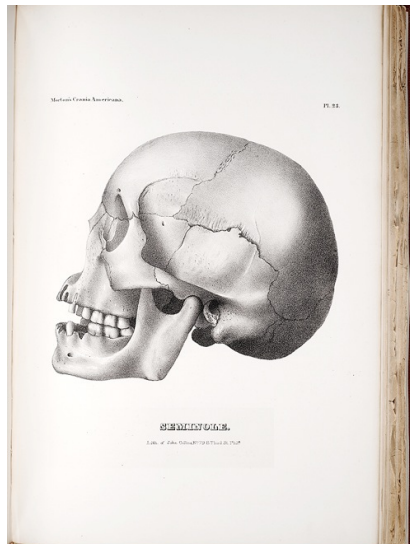
- Theory of Polygenism
  - Humans are composed of different species, created by god
- Craniometry
- Biological Determinism
- “Scientific Racism”
- The “American School”
- d. 1851



91

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## 92 Crania Americana



Samuel George Morton  
1839

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Visible differences?

Indigenous  
Australian  
Melanesia  
African  
European

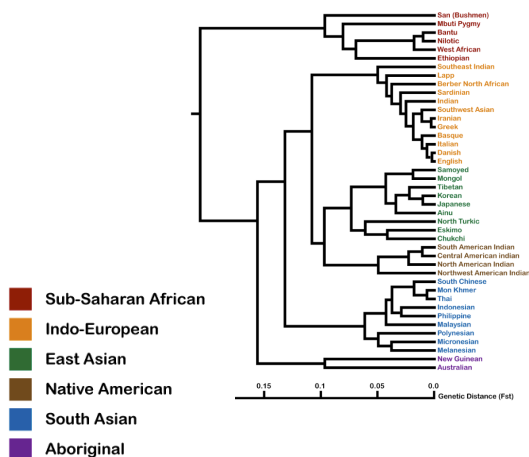


95

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Genetic Differences

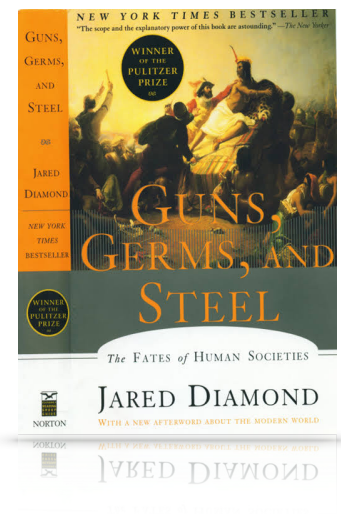
96



Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

97  
Why did Europeans  
conquer many native  
peoples instead of  
vice-versa?

- Guns
- Germs
- Steel



Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History : 19th - 20th Century

- The zeitgeist : Industrialism, world conflict, communism, capitalism
- The needs: healthcare, war, government -- desire to identify unusually high & low functioning people
- The techniques: Advanced statistics, measurement theory
- Theories of psychological development, intelligence, genetics.

101

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Early 20th century

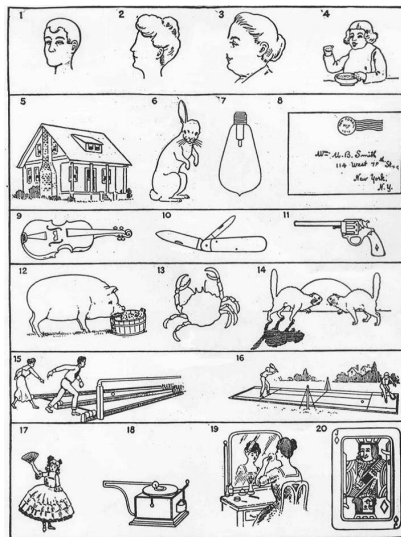
- Notable events in history:
  - Binet-Simon Scale
    - introduced idea of IQ as ratio of mental age to actual age
    - use of standardization sample
- Army tests -- WWI
  - Alpha -- literate
  - Beta -- illiterate

102

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

103

## Test 6 from the Army Beta (1918 IQ test)



Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History: IQ tests

- Charles Spearman : “g” -- theory of general intelligence factor underlying all other special abilities.
- David Wechsler: WAIS and WISC tests
  - Subtests - Verbal vs. Performance Scales
  - Large normative group -- IQ = performance as related to peers
- Thurstone, Cattell, Gardner, others: further theories of intelligence (covered later)

104

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## WAIS: Block Design



105

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Summary

- History of testing... “A long past but a short history”
- America as newly independent colony
  - —> independent science
- Slavery
- Theories of human development
  - Creationism (mono / poly-genism)
  - Evolution
  - Species
- Scientific Racism

106

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Freudian Defense Mechanisms

- Level 1 - Pathological
  - Denial, Distortion, Splitting
- Level 2 - Immature
  - Acting out, Fantasy, Idealization, Passive aggression, **Projection**, Somatization
- Level 3 - Neurotic
  - Displacement, Dissociation, Hypochondriasis, Intellectualization, **Rationalization**, Reaction Formation, Regression, Repression, Undoing
- Level 4 - Mature
  - Altruism, Anticipation, **Humor**, Identification, Introjection, Sublimation, thought suppression

108

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## History: Personality Tests

- Traits vs. States
- Structured / “objective”:
  - WPDS (early)
  - MMPI, CPI (modern)
  - 16PF (modern, based on factor analysis)
  - NEO (NEO-FFI: NEOAC)
- Unstructured / “projective”:
  - Rorschach (inkblot test)
  - TAT (Thematic Apperception Test)

109

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Structured Tests: Criticism

- “Correct” answers are obvious
- lack of psychological theory?
- —> Structured tests: improved designs (MMPI)
- —> Projective testing: new theory

	Yes	No
1. I wet the bed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I drink a quart of whiskey each day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I am afraid of closed spaces.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I believe I am being followed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. People are out to get me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sometimes I see or hear things that other people do not hear or see.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## MMPI

1. I like mechanics magazines
2. I have a good appetite
3. I wake up fresh & rested most mornings
4. I think I would like the work of a librarian
5. I am easily awakened by noise
6. I like to read newspaper articles on crime
7. My hands and feet are usually warm enough
8. My daily life is full of things that keep me interested
9. I am about as able to work as I ever was
10. There seems to be a lump in my throat much of the time

111

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

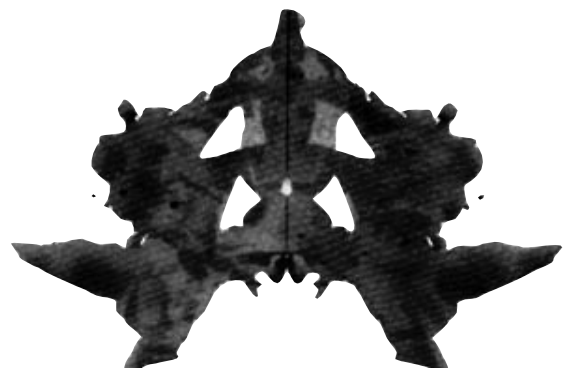
113

## TAT



Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## Rorschach 1



114

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## MMoM - Themes

- Biological Determinism - a theory of limits
- Measuring intelligence as a single quantity...
- Plato: dialectic. Church: dogma. Now: science.
- “Book is about the scientific version of Plato’s tale”
- “Socrates knew that he was telling a lie”
- Science (and scientists) are not objective
  - social endeavor
  - fraud, but also (and worse) unconscious bias

115

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr

## MMoM - Fallacies

- Reification
  - naming a thing gives it disproportionate power
- Ranking
  - over-simplifying complexity by ordering on a single scale

116

Psychology 402 - Fall 2023 - Dr. Michael Dohr