

P R E F A C E

This is the fifth edition of *Psychology*. One reason for this revision is the obvious fact that, like any other discipline, psychology advances and develops. Fifty years ago, psychologists tended to be rather defensive about the status of the field and were perhaps a bit too loud in proclaiming that "Psychology is a science!" But by now there is no need for such defensive proclamations, for that assertion has become a simple statement of fact. In the last half a century, psychology has assuredly become a real and vigorously progressive science.

As a field advances, so must all attempts to describe it. These advances, together with the suggestions by the many students and colleagues who have used this text, prompted a number of changes that we describe below.

In addition, this volume is now coauthored for the first time. Alan Fridlund and Daniel Reisberg played an important role as advisors on the previous editions, but up until now, this book has in important ways been Henry Gleitman's alone. This change in authorship has been driven by the increasing breadth and sophistication of our field, which make it difficult for any one individual to know the full span of psychology and to write about this material with the precision of an expert. The added perspective of the two new authors adds a depth and richness that our field now demands.

This edition has been a full collaboration, with all three of us deeply involved in every chapter. Each of us has brought our own background and experience to the project, but we have tried our very best to weave these strands together to ensure a unified and cohesive treatment. That unity is enhanced by our shared allegiance to the broad aims that have characterized this book from its very first edition.

THE OVERALL AIM: COHESION IN A DIVERSE FIELD

In writing *Psychology*, Gleitman sought to present the field in all its diversity while conveying the sense in which it is a coherent intellectual enterprise. In pursuit of this goal, he did the following:

1. To present the different subareas of psychology, the book was organized around five main questions: How do humans (and where relevant, nonhuman animals) act, how do they know, how do they interact, how do they develop, and how do they differ from each other?

2. To provide intellectual cohesion, each topic was considered against the backdrop of one or two major ideas that could serve as an organizing and unifying framework. Thus the chapter on the biological bases of behavior showcases Descartes' conception of the organism as a machine, and the next chapter treats various aspects of motivated behavior as manifestations of negative feedback. To relate the material across chapters, several overarching themes are carried over from chapter to chapter. For example, the various chapters that deal with cognition ("Sensory Processes," "Perception," "Memory," "Thought and Knowledge," and "Language") all consider variations on the two controversies of nature versus nurture and psychological atomism versus organization.

3. In many cases, integration requires taking a step backward to look at psychology's intellectual history, for a number of the field's endeavors are hard to explain unless one points out the paths that led up to them. Why did Thorndike study cats in puzzle boxes? Why did his conclusions have such an important effect on American psychology? Why were they challenged by Köhler and Tolman? It still pays to take a serious look at the work of such pioneers before turning to the present. Much as a river's water is clearer when it is taken from its source, so issues that have become more and more complex as detail has been piled upon detail become plainer and more evident when traced back to their origin.

GENERAL ORGANIZATION

These essential themes are preserved from earlier editions. At the same time, though, much is new. In the last two decades, psychology has developed a new partnership with the neurosciences, and much of this new and exciting material is now included. Likewise, our field has benefited in recent years from an increased understanding of non-Western cultures and how the feelings, thoughts, and behavior of people in these cultures differ from those of people in the West. Our discussion of many topics in this edition now reflects the power of these cross-cultural comparisons. Similarly, evolutionary considerations, often fueled by comparisons across species, have provided new insights into many psychological questions, and this is also emphasized in this new edition.

All three of these topics—coverage of neuroscience, cross-cultural comparisons, and evolutionary insights—have been included in previous editions of *Psychology*, but our treatment of them in the Fifth Edition is much expanded. This might have entailed a celebration of these new domains by setting them in their own chapters, distinct from the discussion contained elsewhere in the text. We have chosen not to do this, however, because we believe that students are not well served by placing these topics in a sort of intellectual quarantine separate from the issues and arguments that constitute the rest of psychology. Instead, we have woven these new materials into the overall narrative of the book, where they can illuminate, and be illuminated by, long-standing psychological claims and evidence.

For this reason, the structure of the book remains largely as it was in earlier editions—despite the introduction of a very large quantity of new material. After an introductory chapter, the book is still divided into five parts that represent the perspectives from which most psychological phenomena can be regarded: "Action," "Cognition," "Social Behavior," "Development," and "Individual Differences." In brief outline, they cover the following topics: