

PSY 5500 – History and Systems of Psychology
Epistemology Paper Rubrics
(Based on a 100-point scale)

- I. Paper Written in Accordance with APA Writing Style (10-points)
 - a. **Content:** This must demonstrate a solid attempt by the student to write in accordance with APA style including title page, margins, reference citations, reference list, gender inclusive language, culturally sensitive language, and basic style and theme issues.
 - b. **Purpose:** It is important for students to be able to communicate in written form consistent with the standards of the field. This helps to safeguard against potential ethical and legal problems.

- II. General Writing Skills (10-points)
 - a. **Content:** This includes grammar, spelling, and utilization of complete sentences. Additionally, sentences and paragraphs should be clearly written with an identifiable point.
 - b. **Purpose:** Good oral and written communication is essential in the field of psychology. It is difficult to succeed in this field without solid communication skills. Poor communication skills also can open students to potential legal and ethical difficulties.

- III. Appropriate Use of Sources (10-points)
 - a. **Content:** This includes, but is not limited to, choosing appropriate scholarly sources for your paper. Students should be able to identify sources that are at an appropriate level of scholarship for a graduate level paper and professional practice. Additionally, consideration is given for appropriately citing and utilizing sources.
 - b. **Purpose:** It is important for students to be able to critically think about the sources utilized in the paper. It is essential for professionals to be able to think critically about the quality and appropriateness of materials which inform their practice.

- IV. Organization and Synthesis (20-points)
 - a. **Content:** The paper should flow well from beginning to end in a logical manner. All the material covered should logically fit together (synthesis). The paper should include a good introduction, a covering of the primary content of the paper, and a conclusion. The introduction and conclusion should help the reader be very clear on the purpose of your paper. It should be evident to the reader why each piece of content was included in the paper and how it contributes to your overall thesis.
 - b. **Purpose:** The ability to synthesize relevant material is an essential clinical and scholarly skill. Additionally, the ability to present information in a manner that makes sense and helps the reader understand what is being communicated has relevance in various areas of professional practice.

- V. Critical Thinking (25-points)
 - a. **Content:** Students should develop appropriate graduate level critical thinking skills as related to the theory and theorist covered in this paper. This is partially connected to the appropriate use of sources, organization, and synthesis.
 - b. **Purpose:** Critical thinking is an important value of COSPP and an essential tool for therapists. Psychologists need to be able to think critically in the clinical setting and when engaging with the professional literature, including theory and research.

- VI. Paper Content (25-points)
 - a. **Content:** This must clearly state the epistemological position you are advocating. It should address 1) points of agreement, 2) points of disagreement/concern/confusion, 3) how this position impacts your worldview, and 4) how does this position impact your professional practice/approach.
 - b. **Purpose:** These theories play an important role in contemporary professional practice. It is important for students to be familiar with the content and implication of these theories.

Note: Please note these are scoring *guidelines* used by the professor in grading papers. Many content areas overlap, meaning that you can lose points in more than one area for some errors. Additionally, if any domain is grossly inappropriate, additional deductions may be taken from the overall score.