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Professor Flavin

History of Psychology

History of Psychology-Week 8 Chapters 6,7, and 8

Functionalism focuses on how the mind works or how it can be used by an organism to get used to its environment. Functional Psychology also focuses on mental processes, the composition of the mind, mental elements, and its structure. The development of Functionalism in psychology was to protest against Wundt's experimental psychology and Titchener's structural psychology. One individual who focused on Functionalism was William James, who also impacted American Psychology. James wrote a book titled, "The Principles of Psychology," which became the central focus of American functionalism. The goal of his book was to focus on and study living people and how they adapted to the environment around them. When studying functionalism focuses on mind and body functions and there is no difference between the mind and body. Functionalism started to become widely known and would soon be taught at well-known universities such as Columbia University and taught by professor Robert Woodworth. During his teachings, Woodworth introduced Functionalism as dynamic psychology which focuses on Motivation. This new psychology also made Woodworth create the term, "motivology." Functionalism would become more well-known as applied psychologists and functionalism academic founders would change the nature of American Psychology.