

# **OUTLINES FOR EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

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Outlines for Experimental Psychology by H. L. Hollingworth

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**H. L. HOLLINGWORTH**

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EXPERIMENTAL  
PSYCHOLOGY**



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**EXPERIMENTAL  
PSYCHOLOGY**

BY

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE.....	5

### PART I.

GENERAL OUTLINE FOR THE COURSE.....	9
TOPICAL OUTLINES AND REFERENCES.....	11

### PART II.

GENERAL LABORATORY INSTRUCTIONS.....	27
LABORATORY MANUAL.....	29
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPERIMENTS.....	108

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## PREFACE

The only justification for the existence of an Outline for Experimental Psychology is to be found in its usefulness. In order to be useful, such a manual should serve several distinct purposes. It should encourage rather than inhibit the enthusiasm of the student who is beginning the study of human nature under controlled conditions; it should assist in giving such a student a general and more or less systematic view of the wide field of psychological inquiry; it should constitute a guide rather than an authority; it should be detailed enough to enable the instructor to give his attention to the student rather than to the implements; with all this, it should allow sufficient freedom to avoid becoming itself the main object of investigation. The outline here presented has seemed to serve these various purposes in my own teaching.

The system which it follows does not pretend to be a classification of psychological elements, processes or mechanisms. It is merely a convenient, and, in my experience, a suggestive classification of the topics or subject matter of the course. It affords a gradual transition from topics which may be studied by the purely objective methods of the physical sciences, through material related to the popular notion of psychology as the "interpretation" of conduct, to that more analytic and introspective type of investigation which is sometimes held to be the only respectable psychological pursuit.

The Outline is primarily intended to serve as the basis of an introductory laboratory or practise course, running throughout one academic year, with two or three lectures and three to five laboratory hours each week. Its arrangement is sufficiently flexible to permit of its being used in various other ways as well. It pre-supposes the use of a modest reference library rather than the study of any single text book. It avoids, so far as practicable, the introduction of special apparatus and intricate machinery. Its choice of subject matter is determined by an interest in the

dynamics of thought and conduct, rather than in the analysis and description of the immediate contents of consciousness.

Perhaps the only evidences of originality to be discerned in the Outline and Manual are to be found in the arrangement of subject matter and in the formulation of a few of the experiments. I have not hesitated to appropriate useful experiments from books and teachers, regardless of the time or place of their original description. Wherever possible, my indebtedness to these sources is indicated by their inclusion among the references. In the formulation of instructions for several of the experiments on association and imagery I have profited by suggestions from unpublished laboratory outlines used by Prof. R. S. Woodworth in his courses on experimental psychology.

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**Part I.**  
**TOPICAL OUTLINE**  
**AND**  
**REFERENCES**