

Vocabulary – Unit 2

Thinking Critically with Psychology

hindsight bias	The tendency to believe, after learning an outcome, that one would have foreseen it.
critical thinking	Thinking that does not blindly accept arguments and conclusion
theory	Explanation using an integrated set of principles that organizes and predicts observations.
hypothesis	A testable prediction often implied by a theory .
operational definition	A statement of the procedures used to define research variables.
replication	Repeating the essence of a research study , usually with different participants in different situations, to see whether the basic finding extends to other participants and circumstances.
case study	An observation technique in which one person is studied in depth in the hopes of revealing universal principles.
survey	A technique for ascertaining the self-reported attitudes or behaviors of people, usually by questioning a representative, random sample of them.
false consensus effect	The tendency to overestimate the extent to which others share our beliefs and behaviors.
population	All the cases in a group, from which samples may be drawn for study.
random sample	A sample that fairly represents a population because each member has an equal chance of inclusion.
naturalistic observation	Observing and recording behavior in naturally occurring situations without trying to manipulate and control the situation.
correlation coefficient	How well either factor predicts the other.
scatterplot	A graphed cluster of dots, each of which represents the values of two variables. Slope indicates the relationship between the two variables.
illusory correlation	The perception of a relationship where none exists.
double-blind procedure	Research participants and research staff are ignorant about who received the treatment or the placebo.
placebo effect	Mind over matter: Experimental results caused by expectations alone
experimental condition	The condition of an experiment that exposes participants to the treatment, that is, to one version of the independent variable.
experiment	A research method in which an investigator manipulates one or more factors to observe the effect on some behavior or mental processes. By random assignment of participants, the experiment controls other relevant factors.
control condition	The condition of an experiment that contrasts with the experimental condition and serves as a comparison for evaluating the effect of the treatment.
random assignment	Assigning participants to experimental and control conditions by chance, thus minimizing preexisting differences between those assigned to the different groups.
independent variable	The experimental factor that is manipulated; the variable whose effect is being studied.
dependent variable	The experimental factor that is being measured; the variable that may change in response to manipulations of the independent variable.
standard deviation	A computed measure of how much scores vary around the mean score.
statistical significance	A statistical statement of how likely it is that an obtained result occurred by chance.
culture	The enduring behaviors, ideas, attitudes and traditions shared by a large group of people and transmitted from one generation to the next.