

## Announcements

- Website  
<http://psych.colorado.edu/~colunga/DevPsych04.html>
- Mailing list
  - sign up by going to:  
<http://psych.colorado.edu/courses.html>
  - Click on the link 'Class Email List Subscription form.'
  - Choose your class and section number  
**PSYCH4684-001.**

## Theories in developmental psychology

...but first, something about science and the scientific method

## What gives science legitimacy?

- Testing predictions
- Observable measures that must be **reliable** and **valid**.
  - Reliable - gives the same result every time
  - Valid - measures what you think it is measuring
- Theories must be falsifiable

## The Scientific Method

- Question, Theory
- Hypothesis
- Prediction
- Experiments

## What is a theory?

- orderly integrated set of statements that describes, explains, and makes predictions.
- (in psychology) orderly integrated set of statements that **describes, explains, and predicts** behavior
  - Description - what the behavior looks like
  - Explanation - why the behavior looks like it does
  - Prediction - if the theory is correct, then the behavior should appear in certain ways under certain conditions

## Four qualities of a good theory

- Falsifiability
- Predictability
- Parsimony
- Replicability

I. Read pages 7-9 of the text book.

II. For each of the following philosophers/theorists:

1. Plato
2. Aristotle
3. Locke
4. Rousseau
5. Freud
6. Watson

answer the following two questions:

- a) Does he view nature or nurture as more important? Justify your answer.
- b) What is the force behind change? What motivates the child's behavior?

- Plato & Aristotle believed welfare of society depended on children's being raised properly. Careful upbringing was essential.
- Plato emphasized self-control and discipline.
- Aristotle agreed, but emphasized fitting child rearing to needs of individual child.
- Plato believed children born with innate knowledge.
- Aristotle believed that all knowledge comes from experience.