1-23-03

• Descartes and the soul in the Pineal gland
• Charles Darwin
• Misinterpretations of Darwin: Race Superiority, Social Darwinism, Practice of Eugenics
• Chapter 2, Reactions against Darwin from Psychology, Anthropology, and Sociology
Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

• 1859 – “The origin of species by means of natural selection: Or the preservation of favored races in the struggle for life”

• 1872 – “The expressions of the emotions in man and animals”
The Double Helix

Watson & Crick
Misinterpretations of Darwin

• **Prejudice:** Otto Jesperrson’s view of Europeans as advanced race that should rule others, later taken to the extreme by Hitler for “Aryan Race”

• **Social Darwinism:** (Herbert Spenser): Rockefeller, Carnegie, Galton, Ayn Rand, Related to Political Philosophy?

• **Eugenics:** during the early 20th century for immigration quotas, forced sterilization
Reactions against Social Darwinism from Psychology

- **John Stuart Mill** (1806-1873), argued for associationism as core model of behavior, and against innate categories like gender, race
- **John B. Watson** (1878-1958) quote, p. 19 from behaviorism viewpoint
- Kantor and Kuo: no behavioral instincts
- **B. F. Skinner** (1904-1990), *The Behavior of Organisms* (rats and pigeons). Nothing to be learned from the study of genes or the brain
Blank Slate views from Anthropology and Sociology

- **Franz Boas** (1858-1942): All complex activities are socially determined, not innate. People differ because their cultures differ. Argued against racism.

- Boas’ student Albert Krober argued that culture is “superorganic”

- **Emile Durkheim** (1858-1917), founder of Sociology, denied human nature for beliefs and desires, all is in culture.
From Sociology and Anthropology (continued)

• **Ashley Montagu** (1973): Human nature is infinitely malleable, the “group” mind is what matters

• **Margaret Mead:** Native peoples are peaceful, egalitarian, materially satisfied, sexually unconflicted…

• Maleability of humans, autonomy of culture, perfectability of mankind, all sounded good to me!