

FD 01

Theories of Personality
Psychology 321 – Fall 2001

Days/Times/Location: T, Th. 2:00-3:20 p.m. @ Henry 102

Instructor: Tracy Trevorror, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Behavioral Sciences #17, T & Th. 1:00.-2:00 p.m., and by appointment

Text/Materials: Personality; Strategies & Issues. Liebert & Liebert, 8th. Edition

Course Description and Objectives

The study of personality is often considered the heart of psychology because it addresses the basic question of what makes people tick. Why is Joe the life of the party? What drives Anne to study all the time? Why is Nathan so reckless? Why is Calvin confident singing karaoke but shy and awkward when you meet him alone? We often find other people's behavior difficult to understand and we are often mysteries to ourselves!

As you will see in this course, in the field of psychology, there are many theories but little agreement as to what is "personality". Psychologists disagree on where to focus their study, how to gather their data, and what language and models to use when describing people and their thoughts and behavior.

Many disciplines attempt to capture aspects of personality, such as literature, history, and fine arts. This course will cover how psychology adds to our understanding (and sometimes our confusion) about personality.

My objectives for this course are as follows. First, I want you to be able to think critically about the theories presented. I want you to be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each theory that we review. I want you to reflect on ethical issues, such as the impact of "labeling" others, and how cultural and gender issues are addressed (or not addressed) by various theories. Second, I will be encouraging you to apply the course material to your own life, and to discuss your perspective in class and in writing. I believe it is important that you grapple with issues of understanding yourself and those around you. Third, I want you to become acquainted with the various methods used to assess personality and personality problems, as well as how psychological therapies are considered to influence personality. Finally, I want you to gain experience in reviewing psychological literature and how research is conducted and presented.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following...	
Four tests (best 4 out of 5) (25 points each)	100
Mid-course evaluation participation	5
Five (best) journal entries (5 points each)	25
Research study & class presentation/poster	35
Final	35
<u>A-level paper (optional)</u>	<u>30</u>
Total possible points	200/230

If you are striving to achieve a grade of 'A' in this course you must complete an additional A-level paper. If you elect this option you will be graded on a standard 10%-per grade breakdown. Specifically, 'A' = 207-230, 'B' = 184-206, 'C' = 161-183, 'D' = 138-182.

Students who are not attempting the grade of 'A' are not required to complete the A-level paper and will be graded on the following point distribution (out of a possible 200 points).

Grade levels: B= 160-200 points; C= 140-159 points; D= 120-139 points; F= <120

You may earn extra points by participation in research projects and by bonus point challenges. This opportunity is not provided to allow a student to make up for poor performance (i.e., quantity over quality) and is offered at my discretion.

Tests & Final Exam

Each test will cover material presented in class and the assigned readings. The tests and final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be based on material presented during class presentations.

Journal Entries

Journal entries are brief reports more than they are diary entries. They are typically 1-2 pages, where you express your ideas and reactions to the course material. You may be asked to write a journal in response to specific class material. You may write as many journal assignments as you wish--your top 5 scores will count towards your grade. Expressing yourself clearly in writing is important and will be rewarded. I encourage you to consider taking advantage of the Academic Achievement Program. Call (735-4770) and the staff there will help you improve your writing skills. You may receive bonus points for participating in this program.

Research & Class Presentation/Poster

You will collaborate with three other students on a research project. Your project will include the formation of a hypothesis, which you will explore empirically, i.e., you will collect data to test your hypothesis. Your topic and method must be pre-approved. Specifically, do not start collecting your data until your topic and method has been approved. You will present your study to the class using a poster format. Guidelines for poster presentations will be given in class. Some topics are best explored through a review

of the professional literature. Literature reviews may be proposed in lieu of an empirical research project. A summary of your presentation is to due one class before your presentation.

A-Level Paper

To be considered for an 'A' grade you must submit a 10-20 page paper in APA style by 11/27. Guidelines for the paper will be provided in class. You must submit a proposal and discuss the topic of your paper with me prior to 10/4.

Lateness Policy

No make up exams are given but you are welcome to request to take the exam early should you be unable to make the scheduled exam. Assignment deadlines are not negotiable. The consequence for missing a deadline can lower your grade.

Course Schedule

(subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading
8/28	About this course, dimensions of personality, self-evaluation	none
8/30	Pre-test & self-evaluation test	none
9/4	Science of personality; theory & research	Chapter 1 & 2
9/6	Assessment approaches; research approaches, research articles	handout article
9/11	Personality Research & Assessment	
9/13	Test # 1	Chapter 3, 4 Chapter 5
9/18	Introduction to Psychoanalytic Strategy, Freud	Chapter 6
9/20	Assessment (dreams, projective devices) & treatment (analysis) Critical review of Psychoanalytic Strategy	Chapter 6
9/25	Post-Freudian perspectives; Jung, Erikson	
9/27	Researching psychoanalytic concepts: Hypothesis generation, research designs	Chapter 7 Chapter 8, 9
10/2	Test #2 Assessment of dispositions & treatment implications Traits & types, biological approach Introduction to the Dispositional Strategy	Chapter 7 p.188-190
10/4	Critical review of Dispositional Strategy: Mid-semester course evaluation <i>A-level paper proposal & discussion by this date.</i>	Chapter 10
10/9	Test #3 Introduction to the Environmental Strategy	Chapter 11
10/11	Behaviorism	Chapter 12
10/16	Social Learning Theory	Chapter 13
10/18	Assessment & treatment; critical review of Environmental Strategy	Chapter 14
10/23	Test #4 Introduction to the Representational Strategy	Chapter 15
10/25	Humanist/Existentialists: Roger, Maslow	Chapter 16
10/30	Social/Cognitivists: Kelly, Rotter, Bandura, Michel	Chapter 17
11/1	Critical review of Representational Strategy	Chapter 18
11/6	Test #5 Review of Topics of Presentation	
11/8	Group presentation 1 & 2	
11/13	Group presentations 3 & 4	
11/15	Group presentations 5 & 6	
11/20	Group presentations 7 & 8	
11/22	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
11/27	Group presentations 8 & 9 <i>A-level papers due</i>	
11/29	Summary of presentations	
12/4	Post-test	
TBA	Final week of 12/10-12/14	

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Pre-Test

Name: _____

I have taken the following psychology courses:

Please rate yourself on the following questions...

1. I understand my personality...

Very little	a little	moderate/average	fairly well	very well
1	2	3	4	5

2. Learning about psychological theories and studies has increased my understanding of my personality

Not at all	a little	moderate amount	much	very much
1	2	3	4	5

Please list as many strengths and weaknesses as you can think of the following theories/perspectives on personality...

3. Psychoanalytic Theories

a. Strengths

b. Weaknesses

4. Trait or Dispositional Theories

a. Strengths

b. Weaknesses

5. Environmental, Behavioral, & Social Learning Theories

a. Strengths

b. Weaknesses

6. Humanistic, Cognitive, Representational Theories

a. Strengths

b. Weaknesses

7. List as many ethical issues that you can think of that relate to personality assessment and diagnosis, psychological treatment of personality problems, and in marketing and business.

8. Why should culture and gender be considered when understanding/assessing a person's personality?

9. List ways in which personality is assessed.

10. Describe how psychotherapy is considered to impact a person's personality.

11. List ways in which research data is collected

12. Describe how you would go about obtaining journal articles about the relationship between alcoholism and personality?

13. What statistical procedures/tests are available to analyze research data?

14. List the four sections of a typical research report

15. You are to present research findings at a conference. List what you consider to be important in making your presentation effective.

Thank you!