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- Home
- Syllabus
- Week 1
- Week 2
- Week 3
- Week 4
- Week 5
- Week 6
- Week 7
- Week 8
- Week 9
- Week 10
- Web Board
- APA
- PsychWatch
- PsychWeb
- Mental Health Net
- E-mail
Dylan Gaffney

PSYCHOLOGY 321 9U
The Psychology of Personality



Ms. Dylan Gaffney, MSCP

Contact Phone: 800 # given when you register .

(email located on left tool bar)

IMPORTANT!!! IF YOU EXPECT TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS, READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY. I'D SUGGEST YOU PRINT IT AND KEEP IT HANDY.

REQUIRED TEXT: Personality and Personal Growth by Robert Frager & James Fadiman, 4th edition, Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

Course Description:

Personality Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of the psychological forces that make people uniquely themselves. In this course we will cover the various components

personality. As well as covering the major theorists in the field, you will be looking at your own personality, defining your own theory of personality and exploring the decisions you make about behavior, attitude, friendships, career choices and other aspects of your life. This course will extend beyond the usual confines of personality theory to include Eastern thought.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course you will have a strong working knowledge of the major personality theorists in the field. Additionally, you will demonstrate personalized knowledge of these theoretical concepts by developing your own intrinsic personality model. This will become evident in writing assignments, term project and final exam. After completion of this course you will be well prepared for any graduate level course in Personality Theory.

Expectations:

On-Line courses are considerably harder than traditional classes. The time you would be in class is spent at your computer terminal. It is absolutely imperative to do the reading. You are expected to read all the assigned chapters. If the reading is not done, it will show up in the assignments. Class discussions take place on the "Web Board" (link provided), and it is expected that you will respond to the discussions in an intelligent and respectful manner. It is expected that you will keep up with the weekly

assignments which are designed to support the reading, and help you frame the papers. You are expected to devote yourself, in a comprehensive way, to the term project. There will be a final exam on the main campus at the end of the term, which you are expected to make room for in your schedules. Finally, you are expected to contact me if you are experiencing any difficulty.

What you can expect from your Instructor:

You can expect reasonable and concerned support and availability. The preferable contact is e-mail. (I check my e-mail every other day at the latest, for I do occasionally take a day off.) If you feel the need to talk to me in person you may use the toll free number that will be given to you when you register. I prefer e-mail contact, but if it is an emergency the number is provided. However, I am in NY, EASTERN STANDARD TIME!!! That means I am 6 hours ahead of you. If you fail to grasp that and call me at 2am I will hate you and flunk you. I love my sleep and calls at 2 am scare me.

Grading:

Class Participation=100 points

Topic Papers =150 points

Intrinsic Personality Theory =100 points

Pre-test/Post-test survey(50 points-25 points

each survey)

Final Exam=100 points

500-450=A

450-400=B

400-350=C

350-300=D

300 below=F

Assignments:

CLASS PARTICIPATION: I will be posting questions to the Web Board every week for discussion. The link is provided. It is expected that you will give a considered, thoughtful expression to these questions. Consider the Web Board a classroom and give it all the respect there accorded.

NOTE: To respond, on the web board, (to the question posted) click on REPLY. (Do not click on POST) When you are replying to my question, you are staying in the classroom. If you "post" a new topic you have left the group. There is a further explanation of this on the web board.

I want you to visit the web board twice a week. These are not real time chats, but I want you to visit on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first time you visit, you will be replying to the discussion topic, the second time you visit you will be responding to at least one person's thoughts. If you don't do this you will not receive the full

grade for class participation I will be giving you 5 points, for each visit with a total of 10 per week.

Class participation is an important part of this course. It keeps you connected with others, and allows us all to get to know each other and reflect on the topics at hand.

Papers:

We need to talk about these, and you need to listen carefully. The way I know you are doing the work is through your papers. I get to know you as students, and through my feedback you will get to know me as an instructor.

Cite liberally from the book to support your work and thoughts, and include at least one other reference support. I receive many thoughtful, well-cited papers. If I receive a couple of paragraphs of non-engaged writing, you will not be doing your job as a student in this class.

Additionally, I will assign exercises for you to do before you write. They are support exercises from the text book. The title of our text book says a lot. "Personality and Personal Growth." What I AM NOT interested in is two pages of journal writing and personal stuff. The exercise is merely to show you the way to the theorist! But, I do want you to include a brief description of what you learned.

It is vital that you support your reflective

through my lectures and the textbook. If you do not show me, in a comprehensive way that you are devoting time to the class there is nothing I can do. Show me you understand why we are doing the exercise. Show me how it relates to you, and the theorist, or you will not get the credit.

Note: There is one exception to the above, and that will be in your first paper, the "Vision Quest." More about that in the lecture.

There will be 3 topic papers, each worth 50 points. The should be 4-5 pages long, double spaced. Title page, and footnotes.

Compose your papers on Word or similar, then cut and paste to e-mail. I WILL NOT OPEN ANY ATTACHMENTS. I simply have too much to lose if I get a virus, and they are spread through attachments.

TERM PROJECT: (also called "Intrinsic Paper")

This is a very important part of the course. That is evidenced by the points I have assigned to it. It is an investigative, interactive project. As you learn about the theorists and explore your own feelings, you will naturally start developing your own intrinsic theory of personality. What your theory will not have in common with those you are studying is it's comprehensive nature.

you will not be writing a global personality theory. Recognize that the theorists devoted a lifetime of work to their theories and moved beyond their own intrinsic theory. Saying that, the personal history of the theorist is vital in understanding the theory, hence your own history is vital in understanding your own intrinsic theory. But, I do NOT need to hear your whole history! Edit!

The guidelines for this project are as follows:

You will explore the realms of thought, feeling and behavior (and spirit if you choose). Each of these realms must be explored in order to attain a personal theory that is thorough. Then, you will plug in a theorist who matches your own feelings on each area. You will be adding your own personal reflections, but a requirement is to recognize a theorist for each realm, and explain why this fits your own intrinsic model.

These papers are generally 12 pages long.

Title page, footnotes, bibliography.

NOTICE THAT THIS PAPER IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF WEEK 9: The reason for that is that I need time to read it! And, in all the time I have taught this course, no one has seriously added the Eastern Philosophies to their papers. If you are drawn to that, you will have to jump ahead and extract what you think you will need. The advantage for you, in getting your term paper in to me 2 weeks before the final, is that you will be able to study for my final, as well as your others.

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

In order to get a handle on the complexity of the material here are some questions you might want to ask yourself:

- How do humans develop?
- Consider the significance of nature/nurture in your own life.
- How does your own developmental process effect your personality?
- Do you see any universal patterns?
- How do you perceive gender differences?
- What role does the unconscious play in your world?

Consider the process of change:

- How do people change?
- What leads to that change?
- Is it conscious, unconscious or both?
- In what areas is change most likely to be felt-thought feeling or behavior, spirit?
- How does change work for you? What are your expectations?

When asking yourself about your own bibliography, consider these questions:

- What has been your cultural experience?
- What was your family of origin like, and how has that affected you?
- What is your Religion/Spirituality?
- What significant childhood memories can be brought to bear?
- How do you relate to the cognitive realm,

- How does career/social status fit into your personality model?
- What is your relationship history?
- Does your health or environmental issues affect your personality?

These are good questions to be asking yourself all through the term.

Pre-test/Post-test (Whats' that?):

As part of a survey to determine whether you are learning what this course is designed to teach I will be administering a survey form for you at the beginning of the class, and at the end of the class. In order to get valid statistical information I ask you to be honest. If you receive the pre-test and quickly look up all the answers to make yourself look better, the data will be invalid. There is no right or wrong. Everyone will get the points by merely filling out the survey. I ask you to just relax and help with this process. It will help me make this class better and better.

Final Exam:

There will be a comprehensive final on the main campus. Exams generally fall on a Saturday afternoon, 10 weeks from the start of class. It will be worth 100 points, and I will be giving a review. If you are taking this on the mainland it is your responsibility to line up a proctor. Education centers on military bases can help. Have the proctor contact me for details. Mark

your calendars now, and bring a photo ID

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: this can be an intense course. But don't ever feel that you are being forced to reveal things you would rather not. There is **PLENTY** of room to treat these papers with detached academic interest. In fact, I demand at least 50% academic detachment. **I DO NOT WANT** pages of personal ramblings. The exercises and writings are only meant to get you in the right frame of mind to understand what the theorist is trying to tell you.

More about Grading:

"On-Line" courses tend to be harder than those in the classroom. They are writing intensive, and move very fast. Serious students manage their time well, and are self-disciplined. You will get a lot out of this course if you put the time into it. I fully expect you to do well, and I am here to support you. If you have any questions, or need my help let me know!

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS COVERED:
(specific assignments found at the end of each lecture):

Week One-Chapter 1

Week Two-Chapter 2

Week Three-Chapters 5 & 8

Week Four-Chapters 3 & 13

Week Six-Chapters 4 & 6

Week Seven- Chapters 9 & 10

Week Eight- Chapters 11 & 12

Week Nine- Chapters 15 & 16

Week Ten- Chapter 17

Pet Peeves:

1. When you submit your papers, write in the subject line, your name, the class you are in, and the week you are submitting.

Example: (Subject Line): Jane Doe, Psy 321, paper #1.

1. I receive a lot of mail, and this helps keep everyone straight. If you have question keep it separate from the papers. In the subject line write: Question from _____. Seeing you have a question, I will flag it, open it immediately and try to help.

2. SPELL CHECK YOUR PAPERS!!!!!! I mean it. If you don't know how to do this, find someone who does and ask them. This is an upper division class. You have all had your English classes by now, and are doing Junior level work, so it is time to push yourself out of sloppy habits. This goes for all correspondence.

3. I request greetings and salutations on correspondence (not on papers, as those should

have headings). This form of communication and the world in general is very fast. When we pause for a second to write salutations we keep proper decorum, and it allows us, even for a second, to think before we speak. This is also a practical request, for when you fail to sign your name I have only your e-mail "handle" to go by and searching through my files to find out who "hotlics" is makes me grumpy.

Thank you ahead of time for attending to these small requests.

AND FINALLY.....

Many have come before you, and although all this may seem overwhelming you will quickly get into the swing of things, learn a lot and have some fun. It generally take 2 weeks for the "dust to settle" so don't panic. I am here to help.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE NEED CLARIFICATION ON ANY PART OF THIS SYLLABUS!

[\[Top\]](#)

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