

PSYCHOLOGY 330 - THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

Spring 2003

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Office Hrs: MWF 2-3 and by appointment

About this class: The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the field of personality theory. Three major components will be explored. First, the student will become familiar with important issues in the field. Second, the student will review the major theoretical conceptions of personality that serve as the foundation of the field. Third, the student will critique these theories/perspectives in terms of their strengths and weaknesses and their applicability to the "real" lives of human beings!

There are several distinctive features to this class:

1. Psychology 330 is an upper divisional course. You are certainly welcome to take this course if you are not a psychology major (provided, of course, that you have had the prerequisite of Psychology 100), but you should realize that I will assume that you are serious about the study of psychology and are specifically interested in the goals and subject matter of the course.
2. The class is *writing intensive* and satisfies the sophomore writing requirement. However, this does not mean that you must be a gifted writer or literary scholar to do well. It does mean that you will be writing and revising on a consistent basis and that you will need to devote time and effort to the writing and revision processes.
3. Only original works will be used in this course. This means that you will not have a Theories of Personality text book. You will have available to you the actual works written by the original author. For example, rather than read *about* Freud or read an *interpretation of* Freud (as you might in a Psychology text book), you will actually *read Freud!* The same is true for all of the personality theorists studied this semester. This is challenging for most of us since personality theorists can be obtuse and complex at times; therefore, you will need to be prepared for this challenge as well as for the pure joy of reading a theorist's actual words.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course you should be better able to:

1. understand and use ideas, principles, theories, and concepts to interpret human behavior
2. communicate more effectively in writing and use writing as a way to understand the subject matter of the course
3. appraise your own learning, thinking, and ideas

4. grow in heart and mind. This means that we will make a conscious attempt to develop a tolerance and appreciation of others' ideas and convictions, particularly those views that are different from our own

5. enjoy this moment in time in our own journey of learning

Texts: There will be no textbook used in this class. Selected readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Learning Activities, Evaluation and Grading:

1. **Response Papers: (40%)** Students will read a collection of original works each authored by a major personality theorist. Prior to each respective reading I will post to the Psych 330 Conference a question or questions related to the readings. Each student will then construct a 2 page typed, double spaced response to the question based on the information provided in the reading (see course schedule for due dates). I will designate two-three students per reading assignment to facilitate the discussion of a reading set on a given date. All students at some point during the semester will have the opportunity to facilitate a class discussion. The designated facilitators may meet with me should they choose prior to the respective class to review appropriate ways to conduct this discussion. However, all facilitators are required to submit to me via email a list of questions that they will use to facilitate the class discussion at least one day prior to class discussion. A list of student facilitators and their respective dates for leading the discussion will be decided upon during the first week of the course.

2. **Film Analysis: (25%)** In an effort to evaluate the student's ability to understand and **apply** personality theory, an eight page analysis of a film character's personality from a psychoanalytic perspective will be prepared and submitted at mid semester (see course schedule for due date). You will work collaboratively (not more than 3 students). This means that it will be incumbent on you to choose a group with whom to work. Please note that for this particular assignment each student will receive the same grade. Detailed guidelines for constructing these analyses will be given out in class.

3. **Portfolio: (25%)** A portfolio of selected writing accompanied by your reflection and analysis of your writing will be submitted at the end of the semester. Detailed guidelines for constructing this portfolio will be given out in class

4. **Attendance, Participation, Group Facilitation, and Learn Link Entries: (10%)** It is expected that ALL students will participate in classroom discussion and attend every class. A significant component of this part of your grade will also include your facilitation of a respective class discussion (see #1 above).

Each student is also required to make AT LEAST 10 Learn Link entries during the course of the semester. Each entry should be a response or personal reaction to a concept presented in the lecture, the readings, or to other student comments in class or on Learn Link. It is hoped that these entries will serve as another way to converse with students in the class. *I expect you to respond thoughtfully to one another on this conference and to evidence careful reflection as opposed to an*

"“off the cuff”” reaction. I am interested in whether you are able to incorporate ideas from the class and then articulate them.

The plus-minus system of grading will be used in the calculation of final grades.

The student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please review this code carefully giving special attention to plagiarism. Remember that plagiarism occurs when one uses the words and ideas of another person without quotations and without adequate referencing. PLEASE NOTE ALSO THAT THE USE OF FORMER STUDENTS' PAPERS MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM; TO DO SO IS TO VIOLATE THE HONOR CODE!! Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me.

Course Schedule:

1/15	Introduction to course
1/17	Issues in the study of personality
*1/20	MLK Holiday!
1/22	Issues in the study of personality (cont.)
1/24, 1/27, 1/29 1/31, 2/3, 2/5	I. <u>The Psychodynamic Perspective & Psychoanalysis</u>
*2/7	Question 1 Due! Discussion Readings: "On Dreams" (Freud) "Excerpt from 'Studies in Hysteria'"(Freud)
2/10, 2/12	Revisionist Psychoanalysis
*2/14	Question 2 Due! Discussion Readings: "Excerpt from "Social Interest" (Adler) & "The Development of Personality" (Jung)
2/17, 2/19,, 2/21	Feminist Psychoanalysis
*2/19	<i>Last day for dropping without academic penalty!</i>
*2/24	No Class!
*2/26	Question 3 Due! Discussion Readings: "The Flight from Womanhood" (Horney) & "Woman's Place in Man's Life Cycle" & "Visions of Maturity" (Gilligan)
2/28, 3/3	Object Relations

*3/5	Question 4 Due! Discussion Readings: "Feminism, Femininity and Freud: "Psychoanalytic Feminism and the Psychoanalytic Psychology of Women" (Chodorow)
*3/7	No Class!
*3/10-3/14	Spring Break!
3/17, 3/19, 3/21	Ego Psychology
*3/24	Question 5 Due! Discussion Readings: "Three excerpts from Anna Freud" (A. Freud) & "Eight Stages of Man" (Erikson)
*3/26, 3/28	No Class! Collaborative work on Film Analysis
*3/31	Film Analysis Due! Discussion
4/2, 4/4	II. <u>Behavior and Learning Perspectives</u>
*4/7	Question 6 Due! Discussion Readings: "Baby in a Box," "The Science of Learning and the Art of Teaching," and "Freedom and the Control of Men" (B.F. Skinner)
4/9, 4/11	III. <u>Humanist and Existentialist Perspectives</u>
*4/14	Question 7 Due! Discussion Readings: "A Philosophy of Persons" (Rogers) & "Excerpt from 'The Plateau Experience'" (Maslow)
4/16, 4/18	IV. <u>Cognitive Perspectives</u>
*4/18	<u>Draft of Portfolio due</u>
4/21 ,4/23	V. <u>Non Western Perspectives</u>
*4/25	Question 8 Due! Discussion Readings: "Beginners Mind" & "Right Understanding" (Shunryu Suzuki) and "The Essential Discipline" & "One is All, All is One: The Five Aggregates"(Thich Nhat Hanh)
*4/26	No Class! Individual work on Portfolio construction
*4/28	Portfolio Due! Discussion Closing Remarks

