

PSYCHOLOGY 330 - THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

Spring 2009

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Office Hrs: 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 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. You will also be reviewing one another's paper. Therefore, your ability to help your classmates via constructive written criticism will contribute to your grade.
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 psychological 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 (30%)**
2. **Film Analysis and Peer Review: (25%)**
3. **Psychobiography and Peer Review (25%)**
4. **Attendance and Participation: (10%)**
5. **Blackboard Discussion (10%)**
6. **Peer Review**

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:

1/14	Introduction to course
1/16	Issues in the study of personality
*1/19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
1/21	Issues in the study of personality (continued)
1/23, 1/26, 1/28, 1/30	I. <u>The Psychodynamic Perspective & Psychoanalysis</u>
*2/2	READING 1 – Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "On Dreams" (Freud) "Excerpt from 'Studies in Hysteria'" (Freud)
2/4	Revisionist Psychoanalysis
*2/6	No Class!
2/9	Revisionist Psychoanalysis (continued)
*2/11	READING SET 2 - Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "Excerpt from "Social Interest" (Adler) & "The Development of Personality" (Jung)
2/13, 2/16	Feminist Psychoanalysis
*2/18	READING SET 3 - Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "The Flight from Womanhood" (Horney) & "Woman's Place in Man's Life Cycle" & "Visions of Maturity" (Gilligan)
2/20, 2/23	Object Relations
2/25, 2/27	Ego Psychology
*2/27	Psychobiography materials due! (name of person chosen for psychobiography and biographical source)
*3/2	READING SET 4 - Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "Three excerpts from Anna Freud" (A. Freud) & "Eight Stages of Man" (Erikson)
*3/4	Complete <u>draft</u> of Film Analysis due Peer Review

*3/6	Film Analysis Due and Discussion!!
3/6	Last Day for Dropping without academic penalty
*3/9-3/13	Spring Break!
3/16, 3/18	II. <u>Behavior and Learning Perspectives</u>
*3/20	No Class!
*3/23	READING SET 5 - Response Paper Due and 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)
3/25, 3/27	III. <u>Humanist and Existentialist Perspectives</u>
*3/30	READING SET 6 - Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "A Philosophy of Persons" (Rogers) & "Excerpt from 'The Plateau Experience'" (Maslow)
4/1, 4/3, 4/6	IV. <u>Eastern Perspectives</u>
*4/8	READING SET 7 - Response Paper Due and Discussion Readings: "Beginners Mind" & "Right Understanding (Shunryu Suzuki) and "The Essential Discipline" & "One is All, All is One: The Five Aggregates"(Thich Nhat Hanh)
*4/10	No Class – Office consultations for psychobiography
*4/13	Complete <u>draft</u> of Psychobiography due! Peer Review
*4/15	Peer Review of Psychobiography (continued)
*4/17	No Class – Office consultations for Psychobiography
*4/20	Psychobiography Due & Presentations – Attendance required!
*4/22	Psychobiography Presentations –Attendance required!
*4/24	Psychobiography Presentations - Attendance required!
4/27	Closing Remarks