

*(This syllabus is tentative and may be re-negotiated or changed given the needs of our class)*

## **PSYCHOLOGY 330 – THEORIES OF PERSONALITY (INQ) Spring 2011**

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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!

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

There are five distinctive features to this class:

1. **In-class dialogue, discussion, and collaboration** will be significant components. While I will lecture on a regular basis, I will also expect you to take much of the leadership and ownership of the class. You have important ideas to share and questions to raise!! You will also collaborate with other students. This means that you will facilitate a class discussion with other students and work on a group project with one another. *If you are opposed to group work, this is not the class for you.*
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.

**5. Psychology 330 is an Inquiry Class (INQ).** As an INQ course, we will pay particular attention to the following:

- \*Evaluating the logic of a theorist's argument
- \*Evaluating the scientific validity of the evidence supporting that argument
- \*Determining which part of each "side" of this argument one agrees or disagrees with and why
- \*Presenting and defending one's conclusions in oral and written form
- \*Determining how the controversy might be "solved" through future research
- \*Imagining how the answers to these questions will influence individuals and society

**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. Critically analyze and question theories
5. Understand that questioning and constructing questions are evidence of deep and sophisticated learning
6. Apply the respective theories to "real life" situations and "real life" phenomena
7. 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
8. Enjoy this moment in time in our own journey of learning

**Requirements of the course:** All of the following assignments will be discussed in class. Guidelines for these assignments will be posted to our Blackboard site. In class we, as a collaborative group, will decide on the weights assigned to each of the following requirements. I have listed the range of acceptable weights in parentheses.

1. “Central Question” (CQ) papers (25%-30%)
2. Group Film Analysis (10%-25%)
3. Brief Memos (15%-25%)
4. Self Analysis Final Paper (25%-40%)
5. Class participation and group facilitation (5%-10%)

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.

***\*Please, no cell phones, iPods, iPads, lap tops, or other similar technologies in the classroom! They are often used in a discourteous manner and interrupt the integrity of our learning experience. If I see or hear any of these devices in this classroom, I will ask you to leave.***

### **Course Schedule:**

1/12	Introduction to course
1/14	Issues in the study of personality
<b>*1/17</b>	<b>No Class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</b>
1/19	Issues in the study of personality (continued)
1/21, 1/24, 1/26, 1/28	I. <u>The Psychodynamic Perspective &amp; Psychoanalysis</u>
<b>*1/31</b>	<b>READING 1 – CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "On Dreams" (Freud) "Excerpt from 'Studies in Hysteria'" (Freud)
2/2, 2/4	Revisionist Psychoanalysis
<b>*2/7</b>	<b>READING SET 2 - CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b>

	Readings: "Excerpt from "Social Interest" (Adler) & "The Development of Personality" (Jung)
2/9, 2/11	Feminist Psychoanalysis
<b>*2/14</b>	<b>READING SET 3 - CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "The Flight from Womanhood" (Horney) & "Woman's Place in Man's Life Cycle" & "Visions of Maturity" (Gilligan)
2/16, 2/18	Object Relations
2/21, 2/23	Ego Psychology
<b>*2/25</b>	<b>READING SET 4 - CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "Three excerpts from Anna Freud" (A. Freud) & "Eight Stages of Man" (Erikson)
<b>*2/28, 3/2, 3/4</b>	<b>Group Film Analysis Due and Group Presentations</b>
<b>*3/7-3/11</b>	<b>Spring Break!</b>
3/14, 3/16	II. <u>Behavior and Learning Perspectives</u>
<b>*3/18</b>	<b>READING SET 5 - CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "Baby in a Box," "The Science of Learning and the Art of Teaching," and "Freedom and the Control of Men" (B.F. Skinner)
3/21	Midterm Evaluation and Feedback
3/23, 3/25	Trait Perspectives
3/28, 3/30	III. <u>Humanist and Existentialist Perspectives</u>
<b>*4/1</b>	<b>READING SET 6 – CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "A Philosophy of Persons" (Rogers) & "Excerpt from "The Plateau Experience"" (Maslow)
4/4, 4/6	IV. <u>Eastern Perspectives</u>
<b>*4/8</b>	<b>READING SET 7 - CQ Paper Due and Discussion</b> Readings: "Beginners Mind" & "Right Understanding (Shunryu Suzuki) and "The Essential Discipline" & "One is All, All is One: The Five Aggregates"(Thich Nhat Hanh)
<b>*4/11</b>	<b>Complete <i>on-line</i> <u>draft</u> of Self Analysis paper due</b>

Final Evaluations and Feedback

**\* 4/13, 4/15**

**No Class – Office consultations for Self Analysis paper**

**\*4/18, 4/20, 4/22, 4/25**

**Brief Presentation of Self Analysis Paper – Attendance required!**

***\*\*Final Self Analysis Papers can be submitted any time between 4/18-4/25.***