

SYLLABUS

Theories of Personality

Psychology 3900

Spring Semester, 2018

Instructor:

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Office Hours: MW 5-6; T 8-9; 11-6

Course overview:

The field of personality psychology involves study of basic psychological structures and processes as well as study of systematic differences between persons. Various theories have been proposed to understand “individual differences,” and the principal focus of the course will be on understanding and comparing these theories. Personality psychology also develops empirical research tools to measure and compare systematic differences on basic personality dimensions. Thus the course will also offer opportunity to apply theory through exploration of instrument development and analysis of how theories relate to your own life and personality.

Format: Lecture, discussion, writing application, and project-based group work.

*In general, the first part of the class session will be spent in lecture, discussion, and journal applications. There will be a short break, followed by a “lab” session in which you will work with group members to develop and test questions corresponding to the theories covered.

On days exams are scheduled, we will begin with the exam, followed by a break, and then proceed with a new topic.

Course objectives:

- To identify and analyze differences between theories.
- To apply concepts and models derived from the theories as a basis for understanding one’s own personality.
- To demonstrate knowledge of basic principles of questionnaire development relevant to the study of personality.
- To develop questions that demonstrate understanding of theoretical frameworks and major assumptions of each approach to personality.

Primary text:

Schultz & Schultz: *Theories of Personality*, 10th Edition

Supplemental readings available at <http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/index.htm> unless otherwise noted.

Please note that these are supplemental readings designed for more challenging engagement with theories. I strongly encourage reading these for greater depth of understanding, but they will not be required for exams or assignments.

Assignments/Grading Scheme

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Application Notebook:	15%
Group Project:	20%

Description of Assignments**EXAMS:**

Exams 1 and 2 will be combine “objective” question format with short essays, and will cover material covered during the section of the course indicated on the schedule, below.

The Final Exam will cover material from the last section of the course but will ALSO include questions that require you to evaluate course material more comprehensively, that is, covering the course as a whole.

You may bring NOTES to exams but **not** the textbook or other materials. Some of the exam questions will cover the assigned text, and exams will be time limited, so you are advised to take notes while reading and organize your notes carefully in order to make effective use of the time allotted for each exam. You are not allowed to bring photocopies of text or web pages to exams, and you will not be allowed to complete the exam if you do not comply with these requirements.

APPLICATION JOURNAL:

Some part of each class period will be devoted to writing about ways the theories covered apply to your own life and patterns or those of persons you know well. You are expected to bring a notebook (journal) with you to each class period that is designated for the purpose of completing these writing assignments. If you miss class, you will miss an assignment. You will submit this journal at the end of class. Before submitting your journal, you will include a summative essay that demonstrates your reflection on the theories covered and analyzes specific ways they are relevant to you personally. The essay should be included in the journal, although it can be typed separately and inserted. Your grade for the application journal will be based on both completion of all writing applications assigned in class as well as the summative essay.

GROUP PROJECT

You will work in a group of four to develop questionnaires that correspond to each of theoretical approaches covered in each unit. You will pilot the questionnaires and revise them according to the results of the pilot. Your questions should reflect BOTH principles of questionnaire construction as discussed in class AS WELL AS accurate understanding of the theories of personality covered. At times you will be asked to share the questions you develop with the class for discussion and feedback. Your final submitted project will be a collection of what you consider to be your best questions overall (20-30) as well as a description of procedures taken to develop the questions and an account of what each of you contributed. You should also include analysis of how well you were able to capture the major assumptions of the theories covered and any limitations or constraints you experienced in converting theoretical assumptions into questionnaire items.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Please remember that this is an accelerated class, so be sure to keep these dates in mind, especially in relation to assignments due in other classes. There are no make-up exams.

January 15: MLK Day. No class

January 29: Exam 1

February 12: Exam 2

February 28: Final Exam

March 2: Application Journals and Group Projects due

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READING

	Topic	Reading Assignment
JANUARY		
8	Introduction to course	
10	Foundational issues in personality theory	S & S Chapter 1 http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Guthrie/
15	NO CLASS – MLK Holiday	
17	Freud: Background to Psychoanalysis; Affect Trauma model	S & S Chapter 2 http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Freud/Origin/index.htm
22	Freud: The Topographical model	
24	Freud: The Structural model	
29	EXAM 1 Jung: Structure of Psyche	S & S Chapter 3
31	Jung: Typology	http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Jung/types.htm
FEBRUARY		
5	Adler	S & S Chapter 4
7	Horney	S & S Chapter 5

- 12 EXAM 2
Introduction to Biological approaches *Hereditary Talent and Character*
<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Galton/talent.htm>
- 14 Trait Theory S &S Chapter 7, 8
- 19 Learning Theories S & S Chapter 12, 13
'Superstition' in the Pigeon
<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Skinner/Pigeon/>
- 21 Third Force Alternatives S & S Chapter 9, 10
<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/rogers/therapy.htm>
<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Maslow/motivation.htm>
- 26 Kelly S & S Chapter 11
- 28 FINAL EXAM; Course Wrap-up

MARCH

APPLICATION JOURNALS

GROUP PROJECTS DUE