

PSYC 4010-01 Theories of Psychology  
Spring 2020  
Monday & Wednesday 11:00am-12:40pm  
Nursing Building 121

### General Information

Professor: John L. Roberts, Ph.D.  
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Office: Melson 203  
Phone: 678-839-0615  
Office Hours: 9-10am Tuesday, and by appointment

### Course description & Objectives

A comparative examination of several of the major theoretical perspectives alive in psychology today (psychodynamic, natural science, human science, transpersonal, and social-critical). These perspectives will be taken up as both providing comprehensive models for living as well as establishing divergent foundations for research and practice. An important emphasis will be appreciating the coherence of each perspective while also being able to move between them.

### Required Texts:

*Existential Therapies*, Mick Cooper, Sage, 2017(2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)

Other readings as supplied by instructor on Course Den.

### Course Requirements:

Attendance – Attendance for every class session is discretionary but strongly encouraged.

Participation – This will consist of: 1) in-class work such as quizzes and other writing assignments; 2) active and consistent verbal participation/discussion; 3) assignments written out of class. There are no make-up arrangements for missed class participation – take-home papers, quizzes, and in-class assignments. All in-class work is due in class. All out-of-class work is due at the beginning of class. Work may not be submitted electronically (i.e., email) but must be personally handed in (unless specific arrangements are made).

Examinations – There will be four (4) in-class examinations during the regular semester, and a final exam, for a total of (5) examinations. These exams will probably be multiple choice and long answer/short essay. Exams will cover the reading assignments, lectures, and discussion. There is no possible make-up for exams, but I will drop the lowest of the exam scores. The Final Exam is an out-of-class exam due on May 4 at 11:59pm and may be turned in late with a penalty of 10%; however, no papers will be accepted after May 6 at 11:59.

Book Review – Each student will complete a written seven to nine (7-9) page, including reference page (double-spaced, one (1) inch margin, APA style, etc.) book review (requirements/grading & possible books TBA), which will be due on April 27. The paper may be turned in late with a penalty of 10%; however, no papers will be accepted after May 6 at 11:59.

### Grading

Participation: 350  
Exams (5) (drop lowest): 400  
Book Review: 250  
Total: 1000

900+ = A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
0-599 = F

### Course Expectations:

1. Please arrive on time, and leave when class is over. If this becomes a problem, I reserve the right to ask a person who is late not to enter the class. Out-of-class written work due is due at the beginning of class. If you arrive after a quiz, or miss any work during class, there is no make-up for any reason.
2. Please prepare for each class by doing all the assigned readings, taking time to reflect on what you have read. It is suggested that you come to class with at least one good question in mind. If you miss class, you are responsible for the material covered.
3. If you wish to attend class, please be respectful to others. Electronic devices such as cell phones should be turned off. If there is an emergency that would necessitate your cell phone being left on, please notify me before class and place the cell phone on vibrate. Please do not hold side conversations during class, do work for other courses, check your electronic devices, browse the internet, or engage in any other kind of disruption, as this is very distracting. I reserve the right to ask disruptive students to leave and/or deduct points (i.e., 10 pts, or more, per infraction) from the final grade of anyone who chooses to not comply with this requirement.
4. Students are responsible for upholding the honor code as set forth in the University's Student Handbook. If you are found to have cheated on any assignment, you will be assigned an "F" for the course.
5. If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation from me, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

6. I have an open door policy and encourage students to meet with me in person to further their understanding of course content, as well as discuss direction of their education and career, or other concerns they may have. Pursuant to university policy, I do not discuss grades via email. Please do not ask for your grade at any point during the term. You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and estimating your performance.

7. Students should carefully review information here:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

### Course Announcements

Announcements concerning the course – including changes in readings, policies, meeting times, exam times/content, etc. – will occur in class and in other available means of communication (i.e., Course Den).

## Course Schedule & Major Assignments

*Other reading and/or written assignments as announced. Readings are in **bold**.*

1/6 Greetings

1/8 Introduction: Theory & Psychology  
**Giorgi, “The Idea of Human Science”**

1/13 Psychodynamic Perspective  
Classical Psychoanalysis & Theoretical Foundations  
**Mitchell & Black, *Freud & Beyond*, Preface & Chapter 1**  
**Freud, from *On Dreams*, 142-172 (*The Freud Reader*)**

1/15 Psychodynamic Perspective  
Classical Psychoanalysis & Theoretical Foundations  
***Freud for Beginners***

1/20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No Class

1/22 Psychodynamic Perspective  
Ego Psychology, Melanie Klein

**Mitchell & Black, *Freud & Beyond*, Chapter 2 (pp. 23-38), Chapter 4 (pp. 85-102)**

- 1/27 Psychodynamic Perspective  
Object Relations, Kohut  
**Mitchell & Black, *Freud & Beyond*, Chapters 5 & 6**
- 1/29 Psychodynamic Perspective  
Jung  
**Jung, “The Basic Postulates of Analytical Psychology”**
- 2/3 Exam 1
- 2/5 Natural Science Perspective  
Behaviorism  
**Skinner, *About Behaviorism*, Chapters 4 & 12**
- 2/10 Natural Science Perspective  
Cognitive Psychology  
**E. Bruce Goldstein, Chapter on “Everyday Memory & Memory Errors”**
- 2/12 Natural Science Perspective  
Cognitive Psychology  
**Van der Kolk, *The Body Keeps the Score*, Chapters 4 & 11, 12**
- 2/17 Natural Science Perspective  
Cognitive Psychology – Consciousness  
**Searle, *The Mystery of Consciousness*, Chapters 1 & 5**
- 2/19 Natural Science Perspective  
Evolutionary Psychology  
**Buss, from *The Evolution of Desire*, Chapters 2 & 3**
- 2/24 Natural Science Perspective  
Evolutionary Psychology  
**Hauser, from *Moral Minds*, 111-142**
- 2/26 Exam 2
- 3/2 Film
- 3/4 Human Science Perspective  
Existential-Phenomenological Psychology  
**Spinelli, from *The Interpreted World***
- 3/9 Human Science Perspective

- Existential-Phenomenological Psychology  
**Cohn, from *Heidegger and the Roots of Existential Therapy***
- 3/11 Human Science Perspective  
Existential-Phenomenological Psychology  
Historical & Theoretical Foundations  
**Buber, from *I and Thou***
- 3/16 Spring Break: No Class
- 3/28 Spring Break: No Class
- 3/23 Human Science Perspective  
Existential-Phenomenological & Humanistic Perspectives  
Humanistic-Existential Therapy  
**Cooper, *Existential Therapies***
- 3/25 Human Science Perspective  
Existential-Phenomenological & Humanistic Perspectives  
Humanistic-Existential Therapy  
**Cooper, *Existential Therapies***
- 3/30 Human Science Perspective  
Existential-Phenomenological & Humanistic Perspectives  
Humanistic-Existential Therapy  
**Cooper, *Existential Therapies***
- 4/1 Exam 3
- 4/6 Transpersonal Psychology  
**Wilber, *No Boundary, Chapters 1 & 2***
- 4/8 Transpersonal Psychology  
**Hart, "Inspiration as Transpersonal Knowing"**  
**Washburn, "Transpersonal Cognition in Developmental Perspective"**
- 4/13 Transpersonal Psychology  
Social Constructionist Psychology
- 4/15 Social Constructionist Psychology  
**Burr, *Social Constructionism, Chapters 3 & 4***
- 4/20 Social Constructionist Psychology  
**Burr, *Social Constructionism, Chapters 6 & 7***
- 4/22 Exam 4

4/27 Review for Final Exam. ***Book Reviews Due.***

5/4 No Class; ***Final Exam Due (in Course Den drop box) at 11:59pm.***

**ALL FINAL WORK (LATE FINAL EXAM with penalty, BOOK REVIEW with penalty, & Honors Paper, if applicable) – DUE ON May 6 AT 11:59PM. NO WORK ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DEADLINE.**

*Syllabus is subject to change at any time, like people.*