
PSYC 2270-01: Theories of Personality

Anoka Ramsey Community College

Spring 2009

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Office Hours:
Tues & Thurs 9am-10:30am
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Contacting the instructor:

I will be holding office hours specifically to meet with students to discuss matters related to this course. If you would like to see me but are unable to come during office hours, I would be more than happy to make an appointment with you. In order to set up an appointment email me.

Required Text:

Larsen, R. J. & Buss, D. M. (2008). Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature, Third Edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Course Description:

Historically, psychology was an outgrowth of the study of philosophy. These philosophical roots are most evident in our theories of personality development. Personality development addresses such fundamental questions as "What is the essential nature of humankind?," "How do individuals develop healthy and unhealthy personalities?," and "How do people change and evolve?" These questions are a few of the core philosophical issues that influence the major theories of personality.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

As a consequence of successfully completing this course, students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency on the following course objectives:

- 1.) Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories in personality, including their basic concepts and principles, views of personality development, assessment techniques and treatment principles.
- 2.) Demonstrate an ability to evaluate these major theories according to standard criteria for evaluating the adequacy of scientific theories.
- 3.) Demonstrate an understanding of the major issues involved in developing a theory of personality and use this awareness to formulate one's own view of personality.
- 4.) Define personality and understand each of the elements of the definition of personality.
- 5.) Describe and be familiar with the six domains of knowledge in personality psychology.
- 6.) Discuss the three key purposes of scientific theories, and be able to distinguish theories from beliefs.

Course Requirements:

Readings. Class readings will be assigned to provide you with important background information necessary to understand the class lectures, and to facilitate your participation in the discussions. Class reading assignments are listed in this syllabus. You will be expected to have studied the readings *before each class* and be prepared to participate actively.

Class Participation. Classes will be structured so that a significant amount of time will be devoted to the discussion of assigned readings and cooperative learning activities. You should come to each class prepared to discuss, raise questions, and answer questions concerning the assigned topic for that day. Your preparation and class participation will be assessed each meeting time through your active participation in class discussion and activities. **(100 points)**

Attendance. How much you learn in this course depends upon how much you are willing to put into the course. I expect ALL students to participate in class. Your participation points will be based not on quantity of participation, but on quality. I expect all students to be attentive in class. Any type of disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will negatively affect your participation points. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to find out what information was covered, get any handouts or notes, and to hand in any material due. **Missing class is not an excuse for missing assignments.** Assignments not handed in at the beginning of class on the day it is due will be considered late. See policy on “late assignments” below.

Homework Assignments – For each chapter there will be a corresponding homework assignment. There is a total of 13 assignments listed in the schedule of assignments. Students must complete 10 of these assignments. **(10 points each)**

Late Assignments - All assignments must be turned in on the date it is due by the beginning of class. Any assignments handed in after the specified date/time will be considered “late”. All late assignments will be given half-credit, that is, the total points *earned* on that assignment will be cut in half. The last day to hand in any late work is May 5th.

Quizzes. There will be five written examinations throughout the course. Each quiz will contain information discussed in class and described in the readings. Quiz questions will be provided in multiple-choice, short answer, and essay format. **(40 points each)**

Missed Quizzes – Written documentation of illness or personal tragedy is required in order to be excused from taking an examination on the scheduled date. **Any student who misses an exam must contact the instructor either prior to or within 24 hours after the scheduled exam time.** Unacceptable excuses or late requests will result in a “zero” score for the missed exam. Make-up exams for acceptable excuses must be completed within one week of the missed exam. If more than one exam is missed or you cannot make-up the exam within one week, then you must meet with the instructor to determine a course of action.

Final Paper. There will be one required research paper due at the end of the semester, in lieu of a final exam. Your theory paper must have at least five (5) scholarly references other than the text. Use the APA reference manual for format. The paper should be five (5) typed, double-spaced pages in length. More information on the paper will be forthcoming. **(100 points)**

Academic Dishonesty. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes on any coursework will receive a grade of “zero” on the work in question. In addition, a report regarding the academic dishonesty will be given to all appropriate college officials.



The concept of plagiarism can be confusing, and there is a difference between deliberate and accidental plagiarism. However, both will be treated the same in this course.

Plagiarism defined: "Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off same as one's own, original work, or attempts thereof." (from Virginia Tech Honor System Constitution, February 1998).

If plagiarized work is suspected and proven, the student will receive a 0 for the assignment and is subject to sanctions outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

A Note on Classroom Behavior. I expect all students to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Students should be on time to class. If you need to come into class late, do so in a quiet and discreet manner and sit in the back of class. **Cell phones should be turned off or placed on silent mode and put away during class time.** Cell phones, iPods or other electronic devices are not permitted in the classroom during exams. Disruptive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. If I believe that a student is acting in a way that disrupts my ability to teach or other student’s learning, I will not hesitate to have that student removed from the classroom. Please see attached sheet on classroom civility.

Important Note

Please contact the instructor if you have any difficulties that may interfere with any of the course requirements. Modifications can be made to accommodate individual needs. In addition, students who may need special considerations due to a disability should make an appointment to meet with the instructor at the beginning of the course to discuss any necessary modifications. *The instructor is committed to complying with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973.*

Grading Procedure:

Class participation		100 points
Homework Assignments	(10 @ 10 points)	100 points
Theoretical Paper		100 points
Examinations	(5 @ 40 points)	200 points
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Total Points Possible		500 points

Grades will be assigned based on a percentage of total points earned:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	≤ 59

Psyc 2270-01 Course Schedule of Assignments:

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings—to be completed BEFORE this class period.	Material Due Today
01/13	Introduction to Personality Psychology		
01/15	Cont'd	Chapter 1	Hw1
01/20	Personality Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design	Chapter 2	
01/22	Cont'd		Hw2
01/27	Quiz 1		
01/29	Traits and Trait Taxonomies	Chapter 3	
02/03	Cont'd		Hw3
02/05	Theoretical and Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology	Chapter 4	
02/10	Cont'd		Hw4
02/12	Personality Dispositions over Time: Stability, Change, and Coherence	Chapter 5	
02/17	Cont'd		Hw5
02/19	Quiz 2		
02/24	Genetics of Personality	Chapter 6	
02/26	Cont'd		Hw6
03/03	Physiological Approaches to Personality	Chapter 7	
03/05	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality	Chapter 8	
03/10	Cont'd		Hw7
03/12	Quiz 3		
<i>SPRING BREAK</i>			
03/24	Psychoanalytic Approaches to Personality	Chapter 9	
03/26	The Neo-Analytic Movement	Pp. 323-329	Hw8
03/31	Motives and Personality	Chapter 11	
04/02	Cont'd		Hw9
04/07	Cognitive Approaches to Personality	Chapter 12	
04/09	Cont'd		Hw10
04/14	Quiz 4		
04/16	Personality and Social Interaction	Chapter 15	
04/21	Cont'd		Hw11
04/23	Sex, Gender, and Personality	Chapter 16	
04/28	Cont'd		Hw12
04/30	Disorders of Personality	Chapter 19	
05/05	Cont'd		Hw13
05/07	Quiz 5		
Final Paper is due at the beginning of our scheduled final exam time.			



By enrolling in this course, you have become a welcome member of a *community of learners*, an honor and a privilege for each one of us. Your membership in this community and your success in this course are dependent upon your ability to do the following:

Be Respectful. Respect your instructor as an expert in his or her subject area and as the person responsible for facilitating a productive course for everyone. Respect each of your classmate's right to a valuable class experience, free of offensive language, intolerance, or harassment of any kind. Respect these facilities and our time together by eliminating all distractions, especially cell phones, iPods, and other gadgets, and by refraining from disruptions of any kind, including sleeping in class or talking when no formal class discussion is taking place. Finally, respect yourself by participating fully in each class session and making the most of this learning opportunity.

Be Responsible. As a student in this college course, you are entirely responsible for your own success. You are responsible for reading and following the syllabus. It's expected that you arrive to each class session on-time, with assigned work completed, ready to participate fully. If you miss class, you are responsible for the consequences. You are also responsible for obtaining notes, assignments, and syllabus adjustments. Finally, you are responsible for being an active participant in this class rather than a passive observer.

Rise to the Challenge. College-level courses are demanding. They require deeper thinking, more effective writing, and greater personal involvement than many students realize. In order to succeed at this level, you must be willing to accept the challenges presented by the course material, your instructors, and a rigorous schedule. One of the rewards of this challenge can be the discovery that you are capable of much more than you imagined. Therefore, expect great things from yourself, work hard to achieve them, and seek help when you need it. The other members of this community of learners are here to support you, but it's up to you to *rise to the challenge*.