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# PSYC 2270-01: Theories of Personality

## Anoka Ramsey Community College

### Spring 2008

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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:**

Ryckman, R. M. (2008). Theories of Personality: Ninth Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

#### **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.

The goals of this course are to provide: 1) exposure to various personality theorists, 2) an opportunity to formulate your reactions to the theories, noting your own development over the semester, and 3) the opportunity to begin developing your own view 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 the se 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.

## **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.

**Discussion Questions** For each chapter, you will be required to prepare a question for class discussion. These questions should relate to the assigned readings and should include a reference to the section(s) of the readings that inspired the question. Discussion questions should be written in order to spark discussion and should not have a clear yes/no answer. The following is an example of a good discussion questions: “What are the ethical concerns when conducting psychological research with animals?” An example of a bad discussion questions is: “What are Erickson’s stages of psychosocial development?” In addition to posing a question, you will also write a one-page response to your question. Your response should be a thoughtful discussion of your ideas regarding this question. Discussion questions will NOT be accepted after the assigned due date. **(10 points each)**

**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. **(50 points)**

**Attendance.** While specific points are not assigned to each class period, multiple absences will negatively impact 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.

**Paper.** There will be one required theoretical paper for the semester. It should be typed, original, and thoughtful. The following must be included in your paper:

- 1) explore one theoretical model,
- 2) evaluate the model using the criteria for evaluating a theory discussed in class
- 3) provide a thoughtful critique of how this model fits your view of personality.

Your theory paper should have at least three (3) references other than the text. Use original (first) sources whenever possible. 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)**

**Examinations.** There will be four written examinations that will contain information discussed in lecture and described in the readings. Examination questions will be provided in multiple-choice, short answer, and essay format. **(50 points each)**

***Missed Exams*** – Written documentation of illness or personal tragedy is required in order to be excused from taking an examination on the scheduled date. Unacceptable excuses will result in a “zero” score for the missed exam. Make-up exams for acceptable excuses will be completed within two weeks of the missed exam. If more than one exam is missed, then you must meet with the instructor to determine a course of action.

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		50 points
Discussion Question	(10 @ 10 points)	100 points
Theoretical Paper		100 points
Examinations	(4 @ 50 points)	200 points
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Total Points Possible		400 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
01/15	Course overview and introductions	None	None
01/17	Personality and Science	Chapter 1	Discussion Question
01/22	Freud	Chapter 2	
01/24	Freud		Discussion Question
01/29	Freud		
01/31	Catch-up & Review for Exam 1		
<b>02/05</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>		
02/07	Jung	Chapter 3	
02/12	Jung		Discussion Question
02/14	Adler	Chapter 4	
02/19	Adler		Discussion Question
02/21	Erikson	Chapter 6	
02/26	Erikson		Discussion Question
02/28	Catch-up and review for Exam 2		
<b>03/04</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>		
03/06	Allport	Chapter 8	
03/11	Allport		Discussion Question
03/13	Cattell	Chapter 9	
	<i>Spring Break</i>		
03/25	Cattell		Discussion Question
03/27	Maslow	Chapter 12	
04/01	Maslow		Discussion Question
04/03	Rogers	Chapter 13	
04/08	Rogers		Discussion Question
04/10	Catch-up and Review for Exam 3		
<b>04/15</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>		
04/17	Skinner	Chapter 15	
04/22	Skinner		Discussion Question
04/24	Bandura	Chapter 17	
04/29	Bandura		Discussion Question
05/01	Contemporary Theory	Chapter 18	Discussion Question
05/06	Catch-up and review for Exam 4		
<b>05/08</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>		
<b>Final Paper is due at the beginning of our scheduled final exam time.</b>			



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*.