

**PSY K243 Theories of Personality – S 14**

**Office Location:** C Wing, Room 116

**Office Hours:** T and Th 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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## Course Description

This upper level course introduces the major theories of personality with an emphasis on: psychoanalytic theory and its descendants, dispositional theory, biological theories, motivation theories, cognitive theories, phenomenological (experiential) theories and cultural theory. The research methods used to formulate and test these theories are examined. The course addresses *how* we know what we know as well as *what* we know about a particular body of knowledge.

## Learning Objectives

What is personality? What makes us different from one another and where do these differences come from? Do these differences persist over time? How do we scientifically investigate personality? What are the consequences of personality theories? How do you respond to the question, “Tell me about yourself?”

This course is designed to introduce you the broad range of topics germane to personality psychology. We will explore how classic theories and contemporary data inform our knowledge of personality. The course begins with the research methods used to investigate personality theories. Thereafter, we will explore the major personality theorists. You will articulate the salient characteristics of the different theoretical approaches to personality psychology, and evaluate the limitations of these approaches. The course may provide insight into the eternal human question, “Who am I?” (Hartung, 1998) The course emphasizes analyzing, listening, questioning and collaborative learning. Evaluative thinking and the scientific bases for personality theories are stressed.

Class time will be used in combinations of: debate, film, didactic lecture, writing, Internet exploration, and small group work. It is necessary for you to keep current on global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of persons’ psychological functioning. You are encouraged to ask questions about what you are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences and apply it to your daily lives. Learning is a *cooperative joint venture*. *Together* we can make learning a most meaningful experience (Hartung, 1998).

## Required Reading:

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2014). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge about Human Nature* (5th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Additional readings as assigned. The textbook companion website is recommended.

## The Reading Assignments

Please be aware each chapter contains complex theoretical material and research data. Plan and manage your time accordingly. The weekly reading assignments will follow the syllabus for the most part and reflect the five major domains of personality theory. You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment *and having thought critically about it*. This will prepare you for debates, small group work and written reflection.

## Evaluation Procedures to measure each student’s degree of learning

15% Exam #1

15% Exam #2

15% Exam #3

20% Critical Analysis Paper

20% Analysis and Application Paper

15% Preparedness and participation

100 point scale

*Cont’d*

## Attendance and Participation

This class is shaped by your presence and participation. Your attendance is expected. Sharing one's own ideas and responding to others' reactions improves thinking and deepens understanding (The Johnson Foundation, 1987).

Absences adversely affect your grade. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the reason, you risk failure of the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting a fellow student to obtain the information discussed in that class (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) By next week or so, consider introducing yourself to two classmates and note their e-mail or telephone number on this syllabus. Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence.

Punctuality is crucial. Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class. Arriving on time and staying to the end of class shows respect for your fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

## Special Needs

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me during office hours or call for an appointment. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have.

If you have special needs (such as a learning disability, physical condition, mental health disability, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office. In order to provide you with accommodations, I must receive documentation pertaining to your needs. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

## Integrity, Civility and Communication

You will be treated as honorable individuals and with respect. In turn, you are expected to behave in ways which demonstrate respect for the personal dignity and rights of others. As members of the college community, we all share responsibility for safeguarding the rights and freedoms of other members and for maintaining community standards. It is expected that you listen (not talk) while someone else is speaking. We will have disagreements. Please rebut another's viewpoint in a civil, non-personalized, scholarly manner. *Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.* Cell phone conversations and text messaging are prohibited during class.

While the instructor encourages students to work together frequently, honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means a written paper shall be the original creation of each student and answers on examinations will be determined without help from auxiliary sources. Academic dishonesty erodes the integrity of the College and devalues *every* degree granted. If the instructor has any reason to question your conduct, the College's Academic Dishonesty policy will be followed.

## Evaluation

Detailed information concerning the paper requirements will follow under separate cover. Examinations will encompass material from the assigned readings (whether discussed in class or not) and concepts we have explored in class through video, the Internet or group work. **Do not wait** for the exam date to assess your knowledge; you will find practice tests at the textbook companion website, make flashcards and practice essay questions.

If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a 0 will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam. Make-up exams will be given only to students who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam and have an acceptable reason. It is your responsibility to contact the Instructor in order to petition for a make-up exam.

## **Psy 243 Theories of Personality Learning Outcomes**

The goals and objectives for Theories of Personality Psychology are integrated with the college's general education goals. After completing this course, the successful student will have the following knowledge and skills.

**Critical Thinking:** Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze theories and research pertaining to personality psychology

- Develop the ability to critically analyze the major contemporary theories personality  
Develop knowledge of how personality theories have been constructed and applied.
- Develop the ability to apply knowledge of historic and contemporary theories of personality psychology to selected literary characters or models

**Cultures and Society:** Understand how historic trends and cultural context impact the conceptualization of personality.

- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural differences in personality development or conceptualization of personality
- Develop an understanding of how personality and cultural processes interact

**Communication:** Understand and express ideas about personality psychology through reading and writing:

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and interpret written passages.
- Develop the ability to accurately use the nomenclature of personality psychology
- Produce college level writing

**Systematic Inquiry:** Understand how social science research methods are used in personality psychology:

- Acquire knowledge about academic inquiry appropriate to the field of personality psychology
- Develop an understanding of how scientific methodology is applied to the understanding of personality psychology
- Acquire knowledge about men and women whose research and/or theories have made significant contributions to the field of personality psychology.

*The information contained in this syllabus may change with or without notice as circumstances warrant.*

## Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1	January 23 R	<i>Introduction to the course</i>
Week 2	January 28 January 30	Chapters 1 and 2 <i>Introduction to Personality Psychology and Research Methods</i>
Week 3	February 04 February 06	Chapter 3 and <a href="http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm">http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm</a> <i>Assignments outside of class - Class not in session</i>
Week 4	February 11 February 13	<i>Trait Psychology – Eysenck, Cattell, &amp; Big Five Theory</i> Chapter 4
Week 5	February 18 February 20	<i>Measurement issues in trait psychology</i> Catch-up class and prepare for test
Week 6	February 25 February 27	<b>Exam # 1</b> Chapter 6
Week 7	March 04  March 06	<i>Genetics and Personality – Heritability, Behavioral Genetics</i> <b>Paper draft to Writing Center</b> Chapter 7
Week 8	March 11 March 13	<i>Physiological Approaches</i> Chapter 9 <b>Character Analysis Paper DUE</b>
***	March 17	<i>Spring Holiday – Classes not in session – Study Circle meeting</i>
Week 9	March 25 March 27	<i>Psychoanalytic Perspective - Freud</i> <b>Exam # 2</b>
Week 10	April 01 April 03	<i>Psychoanalytic Review and Wrap-Up</i> Begin Chapter 10 Chapter 10
Week 11	April 08 April 10	<i>Contemporary Psychoanalytic Approaches – Erikson, Horney</i> <i>Cont'd - Psychoanalytic Descendants</i>
Week 12	April 15 April 17	Chapter 11 <i>Motives &amp; Personality – Murray, Maslow &amp; Rogers</i> <b>Paper draft to the Writing Center</b>
Week 13	April 22 April 24	<i>Cont'd - Motives &amp; Personality</i> <i>Cont'd - Motives &amp; Personality</i> <b>Theory Analysis Paper DUE</b>
Week 14	April 29 May 01	Chapter 12 <i>Cognitive Topics in Personality Psychology – Kelly, Bandura</i>
Week 15	May 06 May 08	<i>Cont'd - Cognitive Topics in Personality Psychology</i> Review    Withdrawal Deadline
Week 16	May 13	<b>Test 3 Congratulations!</b>