

PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY (PSY 396)

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Office Hours: This semester I'm in class from 9:00-10:50 M-W-F, 12:00-12:50 W, and 11:00-12:15 T-Th. So, I should be in my office most other times between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm or so. We can always arrange a specific time to meet, and I check e-mail several times daily.

Course Objectives and Format

The primary objectives in this course include gaining a greater understanding of the methods and theories psychologists use to understand and study personality. Accordingly, we will be tackling both contemporary perspectives and research findings, as well as historically important theories.

Some of the major theoretical perspectives may be somewhat familiar to you from previous psychology courses, but the emphasis here is on how each theory applies to personality specifically. The format of this course is a seminar involving much discussion and student participation. Class time will be used to process and apply the newly learned material from the readings, as well as to introduce some new material not covered in the assigned readings.

Readings

All readings to prepare for class are online at www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/PSY396

Assessment and Grading

Exams (50 possible points each): There will be a series of 5 exams in which you will be asked to integrate and apply the material covered in the course through a series of short-answer and essay items.

Final Grade: The total number of possible points in the course equals 250, and your grade in the course is based on a straight scale: 90-100% = **A**, 88-89% = **B+**, 80-87% = **B**, 78-79% = **C+**, 70-77% = **C**, 60-69% = **D**, less than 60% = **F**.

In Case of an Emergency School Closing

If we have an unexpected evacuation or closing of the college, continue to follow the assigned reading schedule. If an exam falls on a cancelled day, the exam will be held the next time the class meets (so be prepared to take the exam). If the college closes for a substantial length of time, monitor Koala Connection and your college e-mail account for information and directions. You can contact the instructor via e-mail through Koala Connection or at Michael@mindingthemind.com

Special Individual Arrangements

Please let the instructor know immediately if you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Aug. 29	What is Personality? What Are the Purposes of Personality Theories?
Sept. 3	How do We Assess Personality Informally? How Accurate Are We?
Sept. 5	Gordon Allport and Trait Perspectives on Personality
Sept. 10	Measuring Traits with Various Forms of Data
Sept. 12	Exam 1
Sept. 17	Psychometrics and Constructing Personality Scales
Sept. 19	Evaluating Personality Scales and Correlations
Sept. 24	The Five-Factor Approach to Personality Traits
Sept. 26	Personality Stability and Change
Oct. 1	The Self-Concept as an Aspect of Personality
Oct. 3	Exam 2
Oct. 8	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 10	Behavioral-Genetic Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 15	Biological Responsiveness Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 17	No Class – <i>Fall Break</i>
Oct. 22	Exam 3
Oct. 24	Cognitive Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 29	Emotional Styles, Coping, and Health
Oct. 31	Social Perspectives on Personality
Nov. 5	Gender and Personality
Nov. 7	Motives and Goals as Related to Personality
Nov. 12	Exam 4
Nov. 14	Psychoanalytic Perspectives: Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung
Nov. 19	Neo-Freudian Perspectives: Alfred Adler and Erik Erikson
Nov. 21	Neo-Freudian Perspectives: Karen Horney and Erich Fromm
Nov. 26	Object Relations & Attachment Perspectives
Nov. 28	No Class – <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Dec. 3	Humanistic Perspectives: Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow
Dec. 5	Exam 5
Dec. 12	Final Exam Period, 11:00 – Film: <i>56-Up</i> (A glimpse into the lives of a few people every 7 years over a span of 49 years)