PSY 441 Theories of Personality

Credit hours 4
Term & year Fall 20XX
Delivery Mode Thursday, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m., UHB 3081

Instructor: Dr. UIS
Office: UHB 3139
Office Hours: Monday 10:00 a.m., Thursday 1:00 p.m., or by appointment
Phone: 217/206-xxxx
Email: Professor@uis.edu
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Course Description

This 4-credit hour course was designed to ensure that students know the major personality theories; understand the historical, socio-cultural, and individual factors that shaped the most influential theories; and know how to critically evaluate theories using rational and empirical standards. This course is also a designated writing course within the psychology major curriculum.

NOTE: The American Psychological Association’s Board of Educational Affairs has established 10 goals and objectives for undergraduate education in psychology. The APA has identified the 10 most important skills, knowledge and values that undergraduate students should have when they graduate. The Psychology Department at UIS is committed to delivering a curriculum that addresses these goals and objectives. We have structured PSY 471: Senior Seminar so that we can assess how you, our psychology majors, have mastered the skills, knowledge, and values identified by the APA. In the Senior Seminar you will create an electronic portfolio in which you present your past work and discuss how the various assignments that you have completed during your time at UIS have helped you meet the 10 learning goals. You should save the integrative paper that you write for this course because you may be able to use it to help you create your electronic portfolio in Senior Seminar.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this course will be contingent on students demonstrating that they can:

- Describe the purpose and functions of personality theories;
- Explain the relationship between theoretical propositions and scientific hypotheses;
- Describe the criteria used to evaluate scientific propositions and theories;
- Identify the fundamental issues on which personality theorists tend to differ;
- List the methods of personality assessment, the basic criteria by which tests are evaluated, and common measures of personality;
☐ Compare and contrast the major approaches to understanding personality (e.g., psychodynamic/relational; behavioral/cognitive/social learning; trait; humanistic; and Eastern/transpersonal);
☐ Identify key theorists within each approach and describe significant influences on their work;
☐ Identify the defining features and core constructs of each theory;
☐ Explain theoretical concepts using behavioral examples drawn from popular films; and
☐ Compare and contrast the strengths and limitations of each theory.

Expectations or Teaching Philosophy

Class time will include lecture, short exercises, film analysis, and discussion periods. Students are responsible for attending class, taking lecture notes, participating in in-class exercises and discussions, and completing reading assignments and exams. In addition to providing class time for questions, the professor is available during weekly office hours or by appointment. She can also be contacted by phone or e-mail.

UIS Academic Integrity Policy

I support the UIS policy on Academic Integrity, which states, in part: “Academic integrity is at the heart of the university’s commitment to academic excellence. The UIS community strives to communicate and support clear standards of integrity, so that undergraduate and graduate students can internalize those standards and carry them forward in their personal and professional lives. Living a life with integrity prepares students to assume leadership roles in their communities as well as in their chosen profession. Alumni can be proud of their education and the larger society will benefit from the University’s contribution to the development of ethical leaders. Violations of academic integrity demean the violator, degrade the learning process, deflate the meaning of grades, discredit the accomplishments of past and present students, and tarnish the reputation of the university for all its members.”

Academic sanctions range from a warning to expulsion from the university, depending on the severity of your violation and your history of violations. Whatever the sanction, I will file a report of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Provost.
You are responsible for understanding and complying with the UIS Academic Integrity Policy available at http://www.uis.edu/academicintegrity.

Academic Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. All accommodations must be approved through the UIS Office of Disability Services (ODS) in the Human Resources Building, Room 80. Phone: 217-206-6666.

Required Text

Course Requirements

Lecture material and in-class activities are intended to clarify and extend your understanding of the various personality theories; therefore, you are expected to attend class and to prepare for each class session, in advance, by reading the relevant chapters in your textbook. Your course grade will be determined on the basis of your participation in class, completion of one paper, and scores you obtain on three scheduled exams.

Methods of Evaluation

Participation points will be awarded based on attendance, professor and/or peer perceptions of the quality of your participation, and on completion of in-class exercises.

The paper assignment will involve selecting and reading one empirical research article from a list of several options, and writing a review of the research based its relationship to one of the personality theories covered in this course. The paper must adhere to APA citation and referencing guidelines.

Exams will include a mixture of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or matching items. Items will cover material from the textbook, from lectures, and from class discussions. In the event that a student misses one regularly scheduled exam, he or she will be expected to take the cumulative make-up exam. The make-up exam is given only once during the last week of the semester.

Optional extra credit opportunities will be provided in the form of exam questions and research participation opportunities. Extra credit is completely voluntary and non-competitive in the sense that it is added only after the final point distribution is calculated for the course. At most, extra credit points may translate into a partial grade increase.

“Incompletes” are awarded on a very limited basis in this course, at the discretion of the professor, and never for the sole purpose of avoiding a failing grade. Any agreement regarding an “incomplete” must be formally negotiated before the end of the semester, and the student will be asked to sign a formal contract for completing the unfinished work within a specified time period.

Grading

Elements of Your Final Grade: Exams 300 pts Paper 100 pts Participation 75 pts
Maximum possible extra credit: 8 points

The highest total sum obtained will be considered in setting the upper limit of the final distribution, and the following percentages will be used to assign final grades:

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\geq 93\% & A / & 92-91 & A- / & 90-88 & B+ / & 87-83 & B / & 82-80 & B- / \ & 79-78 & C+ / \\
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Course Calendar or Schedule

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Assignment/Discussion Web Links

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Date Syllabus Prepared: