THEORIES OF PERSONALITY - SECTION WI001

Room – R309

Tuesdays: 6:30 pm - 9:20 pm (13 Jan 2015– 07 April 2015)

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Office Hours: Tuesday 5:45 – 6:15pm
Other meeting times: by Appointment

Required Text

Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings (2012) by M. Miserandino. Reading this textbook is necessary for the course. The text (printed or digital) is available in the bookstore.

Course Description and Objectives

This course will introduce you to the major theories, concepts, and findings in the psychology of Personality through course readings, lectures, videos, discussions, and various assignments. You will learn how people differ in their emotional reactions, motivations, interpersonal approaches, cognitive biases, and fundamental belief systems. These evaluations will include evaluating different structural, process, and developmental models of personality.

Lectures. Lectures will include select textbook material, provide supplementary information video clips, interactive question-and-answer periods, and in-class assignments. Basic powerpoint slides of the lectures will be available on Blackboard, but the slides will not include copyright materials. Although you are responsible for learning all ideas covered in class and all specified textbook information, the lectures will help guide your reading and understanding of the course materials.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. identify the key characteristics of the foundational theories of personality psychology,
2. distinguish among various psychological explanations of human personality,
3. recognise core empirical findings in Personality psychology on topics such as identity of self, emotional reactions, cognitive biases, and resilience,
4. and relate scientific theory and empirical findings to personal, real-world situations.

Evaluation		
	Class Assignments & Participation	25%
	Mid-Term Exam 1	22.5% (multiple choice)
	Mid-Term Exam 2	22.5% (multiple choice)
	Final Exam	30% (multiple choice)
	Bonus (optional)	3%

Letter Grades

"A" – (80-100%) "B" – (70-79%) "C" – (60-69%) "D" – (50-59%) "F" – (0-49%)

To see performance descriptions for each letter grade, see the Nipissing University link below:
http://www.nipissingu.ca/calendar/regulations/academic/Pages/Evaluation-and-Grading-System.aspx

Note: Grades will not be rounded up. A final score of 69.7% will be 69%. You must earn 70.0% (or higher) to get a grade of 70% (or higher).

Keep track of your marks and save your assignments until you have official final grade. If posted grades do not match your records, contact me promptly, and get me your graded results so I can correct your grades.

Two Midterms and a Final Exam (75% in total)
Exam content will reflect all information presented in the textbook and lectures. The midterms will be non-cumulative, but the final exam will be cumulative.

Midterm Exams 1 & 2 (22.5% each) ~ 60-70 questions (textbook and lecture content). On the day of the exam, half of the lecture time-slot will be reserved for the exam and the other half for lecturing.

Final Exam (30%) ~ 150 multiple choice questions emphasizing the content covered after the last midterm exam plus core content from the whole course (comprehensive).

Make-up exams will be permitted ONLY for medical or compassionate reasons with appropriate documentation. Make-up exam format may differ from the original. If you cannot write the make-up exam in a timely manner, you will receive a score of zero.

Class Assignments and Participation (25%)
This mark will be based online assignments, submitted assignments, and other exercises aimed at generating active and thoughtful understanding of the material over the term.

Online Assignments (10%): Each week you will have the opportunity to complete a multiple-choice assignment worth 1%. These assignments will be administered online through Blackboard with a specific time-window in which to complete it. These assignments will focus on a specified chapter / lecture topic.

In-Class Assignments (5%). These graded assignments will primarily be in-class, multiple-choice test items. These in-class assignments will give you examples of the types of multiple-choice questions that will be used on the exams, as well as measuring your understanding of the current class topics.

Other Exercises (10%). You will be given various in- and out-side of class exercises to complete. These are equivalent to participation marks. If you do the assignment as instructed, you will get the full marks. I also will expect in-class verbal participation.

Class Information
This syllabus and the Blackboard website are important resources for course information. Check the website frequently for lecture notes, class scheduling, due-dates, etc.

Communications
For quick face-to-face meetings: see me before or after lectures

Ask Questions. If you are confused about something, please ask. Other students also are likely confused. If you wish a personal, confidential meeting, contact me to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time. *Note*: For commonly raised questions, I will post answers on Blackboard rather than provide each person with a detailed response.

Email and Voicemail. I am conscientious about replying promptly, and I prefer Email. If you do use voice mail, make sure to enunciate your name and state your complete phone number clearly.

Planned Absence Policy: Students occasionally know they will have to miss classes due to religious holidays or University sport competitions. In this case, students must inform me of the intended absences at least two weeks in advance for scheduled tests or scheduled assignments.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism or any form of cheating is subject to serious academic penalty and can result in serious consequences. These inappropriate behaviours will be reported to the Dean.

Treating your Classmates and Professor with Respect: University culture

We all prefer a positive classroom environment that supports learning. Disruptive and selfish activities, such as talking during lectures, watching videos, and engaging in social media activities are unacceptable behaviours. These activities are distracting and unfair to your classmates who have come to class to learn.

Practice university-level learning by participating in lecture activities. Ask questions. Answer questions. Relate concepts to your own life experiences, and share your ideas in class. Class will be more interesting, you will learn more, and you will enjoy the experience!

Manage your schedule appropriately to complete assignments and prepare adequately for exams. Do not procrastinate and avoid excuses like my *I couldn't complete X because my internet access was down*, *blackboard was not working*, etc. If you plan your carefully, you will have sufficient opportunities to complete all course-related tasks. Do not cram; spread-out your studying activities over time.

My Goal

I hope that you will finish this course with a greater understanding, better insight, and a more thorough appreciation of how people differ as individuals. If you also enjoyed this course, that also would be nice.

***Tentative* Lecture Schedule and Important Dates**

Date	Chapter Readings +	Topic	Lec	BB (1% each) Chapter(s) Assg.
Jan 12	Syllabus / 1 - 2	Admin / Methods / Traits	1	
Jan 20	2 - 3	Traits cont'd	2	2 / 3
Jan 25	***Last Day to Register for WI courses***			
Jan 27	4	Assessment	3	4
Feb 03	**Midterm 1** / 5	**Exam**1 / Self	**4**	
Feb 10	5 - 7	Self / Neuroscience	5	5
Feb 17	*No Class - Study Week*			
Feb 24	7 - 8	Neuroscience / Psychoanalytic	6	7
Mar 03	8	Psychoanalytic	7	8
Mar 10	**Midterm 2** / 9	**Exam2** / Reg. & Motive	**8**	
Mar 12	*Last Day to withdraw from WI courses*			
Mar 17	9 - 10	Reg. & Motive / Cogn. Pers.	9	9
Mar 24	10 - 11	Cog. Pers. / Gender	10	10
Mar 31	11 - 12 (Mini)	Gender / Sexual Orientation	11	11
Apr 06	*Easter Monday – University Closed*			
Apr 07	13 (Mini)	Resilience / Finish Up	12	12+13
Apr 14--	*Final Examination Period*	**Final Exam 30%**		

You must be available for your final exam during the final examination period.

Bonus Options for Extra Credit

You have the opportunity to earn up to 3% bonus marks that will be added to your final grade. There are two options for earning these marks (see below). You can use a combination of both options, but you can earn **no more than 3% extra credit** for this course.

Option 1: Participation in research (must be completed on or before **Friday, April 10th**). You may volunteer to participate in Nipissing University research studies offering research credits through the SONA system. You can access the list of available studies online through the SONA system. On SONA, a description of the study tasks, time commitment, and number of participation credits to be credited to participants are detailed. **Please note: 0.5 credits = 0.5 hours of participation time = 0.5%, 1 credit = 1 hour of participation time = 1%, etc.**
To use and access the SONA system, you must enroll yourself as a user.
Go to: https://nipissingu.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f

Instructions. Click "Request an account here" located in the lower left-hand corner of the screen just below "New Participant?" You will then be prompted to enter some basic information about yourself. You also will be asked to submit your "xxxxxx@community.nipissingu.ca" email address. You MUST use your Nipissing email address for this. Once completed, you will be sent an email with password.

When you are looking at the list of studies for which you are eligible, simply click on a study, and information will be displayed about the length of the study, what the study entails, and where the study takes place. If you choose to participate, YOU MUST click on "view available time slots" and register for a timeslot that fits into your schedule. *You cannot simply show up at a time without having registered for that timeslot*. If you need to cancel your appointment, you must login to the system and cancel. This cancellation has to be completed as many hours in advance as required by the particular study (often it is 24 hours, but this time can differ by study, so make sure to note this information when you sign up). Failure to do so will be counted as a "no show." **After two "no shows," your access to the system will be blocked, and you will not able to participate in any further studies for the remainder of the semester.**

When you sign up for a study, you will receive an email confirmation with the date, time, and location of the study. *Write down the date, time, location of the study and the researcher's name and email address*.

Option 2: View and summarize TED talks (must be completed on or before **Wednesday, April 1st**). You may select one or more of the TED talks below to view. Then you must write, in sentences and paragraph format, *a single-spaced,* (single-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins) summary: one full-page for the 1% (longer TED talks) and a half-page for the 0.5% (shorter TED talks).

In your summary, you must:
1) describe the main points of the talk (i.e., the take-home messages),
2) identify the theoretical perspective(s) that underlie the talk (e.g., cognitive, behavioural, evolutionary),
3) identify which section of the textbook is most relevant to the topic covered in the talk, and
4) Describe how the TED talk take-home message relates to the selected section of the textbook information. Does it exemplify, complement, or contradict the textbook message?

Each summary will be worth 0.5 or 1% (depending on the length of the video and written summary). You can earn up to 3% in bonus marks using this option. The marks will be added to your final grade.

1%https://www.ted.com/talks/laurel_braitman_depressed_dogs_cats_with_ocd_what_animal_madness_means_for_us_humans
1% https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_asks_are_we_in_control_of_our_own_decisions
1% https://www.ted.com/talks/mihaly_csikszentmihalyi_on_flow
1% https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_on_language_and_thought
0.5% https://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_goleman_on_compassion

0.5% https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_lewis_embrace_the_near_win