PSYC3400-01 Theories of Personality  
Summer 2 2020 (CRN 61179)  

**Instructor Info:**  
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**Course Info:**  
Academic Term: June 29th- August 5th, 2020  
Credit Hours: 4.0  
**Course Description:** Offers a systematic study of the normal personality and its development. Focuses on behavioral, dynamic, social, and cognitive determinants, assessment of personality, and current research topics; surveys the major theories of personality.

**Course Prerequisites:** *PSYC 1101.*  
**Required Textbooks:** none - readings and resources will be available on Blackboard. Please make sure you can access our class on Canvas! See recommended texts for additional study at the end of the syllabus.

**Course Objectives:**  
The goal of this course is to introduce you, the student, to the concept of personality, its organization and development by systematically examining current psychological research and theories. Students should be able to:

1. Define what personality is. What are the similarities and differences among individuals’ personalities? How are parts of personality organized? What factors influence the development of personality?
2. Explain how can we investigate the nature and cause of personality? What are the implications and consequences of our theories of personality? How can it be researched?
3. Synthesize their own theory of personality. After being exposed to the various theories, you will be able to determine what you believe defines personality as well as evaluate the pros and cons of said theory.

**Learning Outcomes:**  
Specific outcomes for the psychology department can be found at [http://www.northeastern.edu/cos/academics-3/degree-program-learning-outcomes/#psychbs](http://www.northeastern.edu/cos/academics-3/degree-program-learning-outcomes/#psychbs) but this course will specifically help students be able to:

- Exhibit knowledge of main theoretical perspectives and major findings across broad areas of psychological science, e.g., social, cognitive, biological, developmental, and clinical.
- Show depth of knowledge in self-selected specific areas of study within psychological science.
- Explain alternative views and positions within areas of psychological science.
- Read and critique scientific articles, write effectively, and deliver effective oral presentations.
- Exhibit working knowledge of the diverse forms of descriptive, correlational and experimental research methods used in psychological science.
- Apply some of the major research methods, experimental designs, and analysis techniques used to investigate specific questions.
- Develop testable research questions.
- Demonstrate the ability to design and conduct psychological studies to address research questions.
- Exhibit skills in analyzing data, interpreting data, and communicating findings.
- Demonstrate the use of appropriate statistical/quantitative techniques for data analysis.
- Describe ethical issues involved in conducting research and in clinical work in psychological science.
- Participate with others in the exploration and scientific study of psychology; engage in thoughtful discussion with peers about alternative views and explanations.
- Describe connections with other disciplines, e.g., computer science, health sciences, linguistics, and neuroscience.

Course Format, Procedure and Map:
Personality will be a study of “how are people are put together.” This course, in tandem with the Abnormal course will intertwine. In abnormal we will look at how to “put people back together after they have fallen apart.”

To organize this survey course which can feel like a lot of names and terms, we will be analyzing each theory based on the following questions: Is the theory positing a more self-created (agentic) or “other-created” source of character development? Is the theory more macro or molecular in its view? How testable is it? How useful is it? (HINT: Making a chart out of this, with a column for names and terms, can help you study for tests!)

We will break the course down into 4 sections, which are parallel to those in psychology generally: behavioral approaches, psychoanalytic approaches, cognitive and humanistic approaches.

Classes will consist of live lectures, discussions, Q&As and panels—as well as asynchronous pre-recorded talks. In this type of format, you need to be organized and on top of assignments! Class time will be used to expand on and clarify concepts from materials, so completing reading assignments in a timely fashion will significantly enhance the usefulness of class time. Exams and reading comprehension quizzes will cover material from class and; therefore attendance and active learning is crucial. Students are responsible for all information presented in class and should obtain notes from a classmate for any classes missed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING
Participation: 25% of your grade. (5 points given each week).
I expect you to participate- I think it helps you learn. In this online environment, you need to be organized. Turning in material late will only hurt you and prevent you from getting what you want out of the class.

There will be class work and homework to complete that contribute to your class participation grade.

I expect you to come to class prepared and to engage fully in our live class discussions and online. This means you have read the assigned materials and previewed websites or videos. You can and should say or ask anything to express thoughts and feelings that come up during or between classes, especially those that relate to the material at hand.

There will be homework assignments, small group discussions, and Twitter posts to respond to and share. Write down and keep track of tweets you like and that you make at the course. So, FOLLOW ME @DrWilliamSharp on Twitter. If you are set to private settings and you don’t want to change that, just make a different account for this class. Our course hashtags are: #TalkingHelps or #PSYC3400

You should develop a professional voice to use with other students in class (something you will need in your career). Practice this in class. Treat other students with respect. Differences in opinion are a welcome part of college classes. Dialogue and debate are essential. Challenge others’ ideas and allow others to challenge your ideas through questions, reasoned comments and dialogue. Mocking, ridiculing and bullying others is unacceptable behavior. You are most certainly allowed to have fun in class, but not at others’ expense! A simple guide to help you think and develop your professional voice is to ask yourself any of these questions, “Is this how I would want to be talked to? Is this how I would want to be treated? Would my family approve if they heard me talking this way? Would I want this broadcast live on the news or YouTube?”

This 4 credit course in 5 weeks is a lot! Working part time or scheduling a lot of other things beyond this class (and Abnormal if you are taking it) will be very difficult. Please prioritize your education!
Grading for Online Discussions and Homework Posts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>0-1</th>
<th>2-3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promptness and Initiative</td>
<td>Does not respond to most postings, rarely participates freely, no terms or terms used incorrectly</td>
<td>Responds to most postings after a week after initial discussion; limited initiative; few terms from the course; used incorrectly</td>
<td>Responds to most postings within a week; late, uses some of the terms from the course</td>
<td>Consistently responds to postings in a timely way; demonstrates good self-initiative, uses all terms correctly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery of Post</td>
<td>Utilizes poor spelling and grammar in most posts; posts appear “hasty”</td>
<td>Errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in several posts</td>
<td>Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in posts, forgot to highlight or bold</td>
<td>Consistently uses grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of Post</td>
<td>Posts topics which do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant marks</td>
<td>Occasionally posts off topic; most posts are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic</td>
<td>Frequently posts topics that are related to discussion content; prompts further discussion of topic</td>
<td>Consistently posts topics related to discussion topic’ cites additional references related to topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression within the post</td>
<td>Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to topic</td>
<td>Unclear connection to topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or ideas</td>
<td>Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to topic</td>
<td>Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tests: 3 in total, each 25% of grade**

You must keep up with readings and discussions. You are responsible for material if it is assigned. If you read something and have a question about it then, it is also very important you bring it up in class.

**Academic Integrity**

Misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Refer to NEU’s academic integrity policy at [www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academichonesty.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academichonesty.html)
Summer 2020

* Please pay attention to announcements and follow along in CANVAS as these dates can be modified! *

All times are Boston (Eastern Time)

June 29th Week 1: The Scientific Study of Personality

1030a-1130a Welcome to the Virtual Dialogue of Civilization (Zoom Meeting)

Monday June 29th 12-130p Dr Aaron Balick- Welcome and talk on Social Media/Technology

Review Personality PowerPoints 1-2
Read: Questioning the Unquestionability by Moshen

Assignment: Follow someone on Twitter who is different from your average follower- consider a different political, religious, or other significant viewpoint.

July 6th Week 2: Behavioral and Physiological Approaches to Personality

July 6th 2-4pm Sissy Lykou Dance Movement Therapy

Read: Star wars: OCEAN
Assignment: Take online OCEAN Trait Test and post strongest trait on Twitter

July 10th – Psychoanalysis and Society
09:00 – 09:15 – Introduction to the programme
09:15 – 09:45 – Psychoanalytic framework: understanding Societies
09:45 – 10:30 – Discussion
10:30 – 10:45- break
10:45- 11:15 - Societies in times of Covid-19
11:15- 12 noon - Discussion

July 13 Week 3: Dynamic Theories of Personality: Freud & the NeoFreudians
Read: The Second Coming of Freud, Discover Magazine
Read: Id, Ego, and SuperEgo & The Unconscious in The Psychology of Dr. Who
Monday July 13th, Psychotherapist Helen Cordery talk on Attachment Theory

July 15th – Special Talk: Things Can Only Get Stranger 12-2p (likely 12-115p)
With: Dr. Kevin Lu, Greta Kaluzevicate, William Sharp
July 17th – Psychoanalysis and Politics
09:00 – 09:15 – Arrival and reflections
09:15 – 09:45 – Psychoanalytic framework: understanding Politics
09:45 – 10:30 – Discussion
10:30 – 10:45 – break
10:45 - 11:15 - politics in times of Covid-19
11:15 - 12 noon - Discussion

July 20 Week 4: Dynamic Theories of Personality: Transpersonal and Humanistic Theories

Read: An Intro to Jung’s Psychology
Read: The Dynamic Dou: Freud and Jung
Read: Desteno: Saints and Sinners & Desteno: True Colors

Monday July 20th Kevin Lu, Jungian (Analytic Psychology) 12n-130p
Discussion of talk and Q&A

July 24th – Psychoanalysis, the individual, families
09:00 – 09:15 – Arrival and reflections
09:15 – 09:45 – Psychoanalytic framework: understanding individuals and groups
09:45 – 10:30 – Discussion
10:30 – 10:45 – break
10:45 - 11:15 – Individuals and families in times of Covid-19
11:15 - 12 noon - Discussion

July 27 Week 5: Cognitive Theories of Personality
Read: Schemas & Framework: A 2,000 Year Old Assumption

Monday July 12-130p Dr. Aaron Balick, Introduction to Relational Theory

July 31st - Psychoanalysis and Health Professionals in times of Covid 19
09:00 – 09:15 – Arrival and reflections
09:15 – 09:45 – Psychoanalytic framework: understanding the helping professions
09:45 – 10:30 – Discussion
10:30 – 10:45 – break
10:45 - 11:15 – helping and being helped in times of Covid-19: understanding trauma
11:15 - 12 noon - Discussion

August 3rd Wrap Up Week -- all work needs to be completed by August 5th.

August 3rd Panel with all the StillPoint Speakers, 2p-4p???? (Sissy needs evening)
Dr. Aaron Balick, Sissy Lykou, Helen Cordery, Kevin Lu
Recommended Books: