Psy 212: Psychology of Personality, Fall 2018
TTh 2:00-3:30, HSC-150

Instructor: Joan R. Faltot, M.Ed, LPC, LBS
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Office Hours:
By appointment

Course Overview


Course Description: This class provides a critical survey of the major theories of personality structure, dynamics, and development. Students will be given an overview of both classic and contemporary research in personality psychology, and the opportunity to review and integrate relevant academic literature. Students will apply course material to better understand themselves and their personal relationships with others.

Student goals:
1. Learn the core theories of personality as well as the relevant intellectual history behind them.
2. Examine current research and theoretical approaches in personality.
3. Apply psychological theory and analysis to better understand the self and others.
4. Critically analyze and integrate current empirical research within the field of personality.
5. Explore a specific personality construct in depth; create and deliver a formal group presentation on a review of the academic literature related to this construct.

Grading

Quizzes (4 quizzes @ 12% each, 34% total): Each quiz will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer essay questions based on the assigned readings, speakers, and classroom activities.

Group Research Project and Presentation (31%): All students will develop and conduct a literature review as part of a small research group. Students will be required to explore a personality construct in depth by critically analyzing and integrating the relevant psychological literature. Students will present their research to the class in a formal presentation. Groups will be formed in class based on students’ interests. All groups will be required to submit an annotated bibliography in APA format on the day of their presentation.

Journal Project and Reflection Paper (6%): Throughout the semester, students will be asked to think about course content in connection to their personal lives and to record their analyses in a journal. Journal entries will be designed to integrate personal experiences and insight with course content. Students will complete a final paper at the end of the semester based on personal reflection on the journal entries they made throughout the semester.

Final Exam (29%): The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer essays.

Accessibility Statement
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall, (724) 946-7192 e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu

Academic Integrity:
All members of the Westminster Community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College. (Westminster College Student Handbook, p. 22) Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to): cheating on an exam, lending your work to another student so that he/she may turn it in as his/her own, or copying and turning in another person’s work as one’s own (e.g., another current or previous student's work or material taken from the Internet). Students caught participating in such an activity will receive a course grade of "F." If you have any questions regarding academic integrity, please discuss them with the instructor.
Tentative Class Schedule*
*To be prepared for class, please read each chapter prior to the first class in which it is assigned.

Aug 28  Course Introduction
Aug 30  The Study of the Person, Chapter 1
Sept 4  Personality Research Methods, Chapter 2
Sept 6  Assessment, Effect Size, and Ethics, Chapter 3
Sept 11  **Quiz 1**
         Personality Traits, Situations, and Behavior, Chapter 4
Sept 18  Personality Judgment, Chapter 5
Sept 25  Using Personality Traits to Understand Behavior, Chapter 6
Oct 2   **Quiz 2**
         Personality Stability, Development, and Change, Chapter 7
Oct 9   The Anatomy and Physiology of Personality, Chapter 8
Oct 11  The Inheritance of Personality Behavioral Genetics & Evolutionary Psychology, Chapter 9
Oct 18  Humanistic and Positive Psychology, Chapter 12
Oct 25  **Quiz 3**
         Cultural Variation in Experience, Behavior and Personality, Chapter 13
Oct 30  Fall Break!
Nov 1   Behaviorism and Social Learning Theories, Chapter 14
Nov 6   Perception, Thought, Motivation and Emotion, Chapter 15
Nov 13  The Self: What You Know About You, Chapter 16
Nov 20  **Quiz 4**
         Psychoanalysis and FREUD!, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11
Nov 22  Thanksgiving Break!
Nov 27  Personality, Mental Health, and Physical Health, Chapter 17
Dec 4   Personality Research Presentations (National Cookie Day!)
Dec 6   REVIEW

Final Exam: Thursday, December 13, 11:30 am -2:00 pm*
*Please note 11:30 am starting time.