

PSY 847 Topics in Individual Differences

3 Credit Hours
Spring 2015
CRN 24276
MWF 1:25 – 2:15
205 Cammack Building

INSTRUCTOR: Dustin B. Wygant, Ph.D.
218 Cammack Building
622-6796
dustin.wygant@eku.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10:00 – 11:00,
or by appointment.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: PSY 847. *Topics in Individual Differences*. The development of individual differences in traits and behavior examined from the perspective of personality and developmental psychology. Selected coverage of both seminal and current theoretical and empirical literatures. Prerequisite: Departmental approval.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will serve as a review of the major conceptualizations of personality, focusing on more current theories. My approach to the course will emphasize etiological models and theoretical perspectives that yield a framework for understanding the links between personality and psychopathology, as well as the relevance of personality theory in the field of psychology. While this course will certainly review the major current conceptualizations of personality, the course will emphasize the application of this knowledge to improve your clinical and research conceptualization skills.

This course will compliment the Developmental section that will follow in the second part of the course with Dr. Florell. Together, these two sections should serve a foundation for you to understand people from an individual differences perspective.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of current theories of personality, noting how such theories have evolved from historical conceptualizations and approaches.

2. Examine etiological models of psychopathology from a personological perspective, focusing on multidimensional approaches. Models that emphasize the importance of vulnerability factors and the integration of various areas (such as personality, temperament, emotion, and genetics) will be discussed and analyzed.
3. Students will apply information about personality in clinical, school, and research contexts to guide case and empirical conceptualizations.

HOW SLO ASSESSED: final exam, paper, group presentation

REQUIRED READINGS: There is NO course textbook for my section of 847. Dr. Florell has a textbook assigned for the Developmental portion of the course. As you will see at the end of the syllabus, I have a list of articles that will assigned on a weekly basis. It is imperative that you plan accordingly and keep up with the assigned readings. We will reserve a good portion of each class for discussion of these articles.

COURSE FORMAT: In order to emphasize the theory and research relevant to personality this course will consist of weekly lectures/discussion, including required readings.

STUDENT EVALUATION: Grades will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester so that students will be kept apprised of their progress in the course.

Student competence in various course domains will be measured via several avenues:

1. Group presentation
2. Personality reports (based on interpretation of PSY-5 & NEO-PI-R profiles)
3. Final exam covering the lectures and readings
4. Class participation during discussions

GROUP PRESENTATION: You will work in groups of 4 students to do a 20 – 25 minute presentation on a historical personality theorist or a contemporary topic on personality. This will provide the class with information about the foundations of the personality theorist or topic. You will need to get together with your classmates and choose groups and topics. Your grade during your presentation will not only be based on the content, but the presentation style and delivery. Please choose from the following topics:

- Adler: Individual Psychology
 - Jung: Archetypal Psychology
 - Horney: Feminism and Psychoanalysis
 - Erikson: Personality across the lifespan
 - Klein: Object Relations
 - Fromm: Humanistic
 - Psychoanalysis
 - Sullivan: Interpersonal Theory
 - Bandura/Rotter: Social Cognitive Theory
 - Personality and politics
 - Personality and health
 - Personality and learning
 - Personality and work
- I am open to other suggestions as well if you make them aware to me.

During your presentation, please highlight the following information:

- Theoretical basis for the personality model
- If you choose a classic personality theory, you need to describe how the model differs from earlier models (primarily Psychoanalytic models espoused by Freud)
- How the model or topic can be used to inform clinical, school, or research practice
- Highlight the utility of the personality theory

PERSONALITY PROFILE REPORTS: After covering two trait/factor models, the Five Factor Model and Personality Psychopathology Five model, I will present you will several case profiles. You will be responsible for conceptualizing the individual based on these profiles. More instructions regarding the format of these case reports will be presented during the class.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION: This is course is a combination of lecture and seminar, and to a large extent, what you and your classmates gain from the course will involve how much you invest in the course. I **expect** that you will read the assigned material and come to class ready to engage in a thoughtful discussion of the class's topics.

FINAL EXAMINATION: There will be one exam during the course, which will cover all material covered in the text, hand-outs, lectures. The format will consist of multiple choice items and short response essay questions. More information about the final will be presented during the course.

GRADES:

A. Specifics of Grade Determination

Personality Reports	30 points
Group Presentation	30 points
Final Exam	75 points
Participation	15 points
Total Points	150 points

B. Grade Cutoffs:

For the purposes of this course, the specific grading cutoffs will be as follows:

A	90.00 to 99.99
B	80.00 to 89.99
C	70.00 to 79.99
D	60.00 to 69.99

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to be present in all class sessions. Missing classes should be unusual. In the event that some unforeseen circumstance arises, you are expected to confer with me in advance, or as soon as possible after the circumstance.

OFFICE HOURS: I encourage all students to take advantage of my availability. I will be happy to assist you in making this educational experience a rewarding one. There is no such thing as a trivial concern. If you wish to discuss any matter, it will be given my full attention.

- Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment.
- I am in my office most days of the week and will make every effort to respond to email inquiries within 1 business day.

LAST DATE TO DROP THE COURSE:

- January 25, 2015: Last day to register for or add/drop full semester classes.
- February 15, 2015: Last day to withdraw from a full semester class with a "W" grade.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in the Student Services Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT: Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

OFFICIAL EMAIL: An official EKU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this EKU email address.

STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Standards for Written Assignments: Writing Quality: Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective research strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

COURSE OUTLINE: This outline can only be viewed as a rough guide, as the exact amount of time for each topic can never be fully estimated. Therefore, minor changes may occur throughout the semester, so be alert for announcements.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Article
1/21/15	Course introduction, What is personality?	1-2
1/23/15	Personality Measurement	
1/26/15	Group exercise	
1/28/15	Group exercise	

Date	Lecture Topic	Article
1/30/15	Personality and Evolution	3
2/02/15	Personality and Evolution	3
2/04/15	Psychodynamic Theories	4
2/06/15	Psychodynamic Theories	4
2/09/15	Psychodynamic Theories	4
2/11/15	Existential, Humanistic, & Constructivist Theories	5-6
2/13/15	2 student presentations	
2/16/15	Existential, Humanistic, & Constructivist Theories	5-6
2/18/15	Existential, Humanistic, & Constructivist Theories	5-6
2/20/15	2 student presentations	
2/23/15	Trait & Factor Theories	7, 8
2/25/15	Trait & Factor Theories	7, 8
2/27/15	Trait & Factor Theories	7, 8
3/02/15	2 student presentations	
3/04/15	No Class	
3/06/15	No Class	
3/09/15	Personality Disorders	9
3/11/15	Psychopathic Personality	10-11
3/13/15	Psychopathic Personality	10-11
3/16/15	Begin section with Dr. Florell	

READING LIST

1. Damian, R.I., & Robbins, R.W. (2012). Investigations into the human self: A naturalist perspective. *Social Cognition, 30*, 431-448.
2. Cervone, D., & Shoda, Y. (1999). Beyond traits in the study of personality coherence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 8*, 27-32.
3. Buss, D.M. (2009). How can evolutionary psychology successfully explain personality and individual differences? *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 4*, 359-366.
4. Westen, D. (1998). The scientific legacy of Sigmund Freud: Toward a psychodynamically informed psychological science. *Psychological Bulletin, 124*, 333-371.

5. Wong, P.T.P. (2006). Existential and humanistic theories. In M. Hersen & J.C. Thomas (Eds.) *Comprehensive Handbook of Personality and Psychopathology: Personality and Everyday Functioning*. (p. 192-211). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
6. Raskin, J.D. (2006). Constructivist theories. In M. Hersen & J.C. Thomas (Eds.) *Comprehensive Handbook of Personality and Psychopathology: Personality and Everyday Functioning*. (p. 212-229). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
7. Digman, J.M. (1990). Personality structure: Emergence of the five-factor model. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 41, 417-440.
8. Harkness, A.R., Finn, J.A., McNulty, J.L., & Shields, S.M. (2012). The Personality Psychopathology-Five (PSY-5): Recent constructive replication and assessment literature review. *Psychological Assessment*, 24, 432-443.
9. Hopwood, C.J., & Thomas, K.M. (2014). Personality Disorders. In D.C. Beidel, B.C. Frueh, & M. Hersen (Eds.) *Adult psychopathology and diagnosis* (7th ed.). (p.739-774). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
10. Hare, R.D., & Neumann, C.S. (2008). Psychopathy as a clinical and empirical construct. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 4, 217-246.
11. Wall, T.D., Wygant, D.B., & Sellbom, M. (In Press). Boldness explains a key difference between psychopathy and antisocial personality disorder. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*.