SUGGESTED TEXT: Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings
By: Marianne Miserandino

PURPOSE: A theory is a model of reality that helps us to understand, explain, predict, and control that reality. Different approaches focus on different aspects of theory. Humanists and Existentialists tend to focus on the understanding part. Behaviorists and Freudians, on the other hand, prefer to discuss prediction and control (Boeree, 2002). When we talk about someone’s personality, we are talking about what makes that person different from other people, perhaps even unique. This aspect of personality is called individual differences. However, personality theorists are just as interested in the commonalities among people. Personality theorists are interested in the structure of the individual, the psychological structure in particular. This course will examine genetics and physiology, learning and development, social interaction and culture, pathology and therapy from a number of different perspectives on the development, growth, and diversity of personality.

Prerequisites for this course are either PSYCH 100A AND PSYCH 100B, or PSYCH 260; and PSYCH 201; or permission of the department. Students who remain in this course who do not have these prerequisites do so at their own peril and are not exempt from having to complete the prerequisite courses if required for the degree program. Students are responsible for checking their registration status before the end of the add period. Students will not be added after this deadline.
COURSE OUTLINE: (subject to change as announced in class)

September 6  Introduction to course  Chapter 1
Building Blocks of Personality

September 8 - 15  Assessment  Chapter 4
Trait Theory  Chapter 2, 3

September 19  Quiz #1 (5%)

Sept. 20 – Oct. 4  Self  Chapter 5
Genetics  Chapter 6

October 6  Examination #1 (15%)  Chapt 1-6

(NO CLASSES OCTOBER 9, 2017)

October 10 – Nov 8  Neuroscience  Chapter 7
Intrapsychics  Chapter 8
Self-Determination  Chapter 9
Cognitions  Chapter 10

November 10  Examination #2 (15%)  Chapt 7 - 10

(NO CLASSES NOVEMBER 13 TO 15, 2017)

November 14 - 29  Gender  Chapter 11
Modern Theorists
Special Topics

December 1  Examination #3 (15%)  Chapt 11
Modern Theory
Special Topics
EVALUATION:

1. **In-class Discussions**: There will be five in-class assignments/projects (1% each). These will be in the format of Group Discussions. They will be held on **September 15, September 29, October 13, October 27, November 24, 2017**.

   **TOTAL VALUE**: 5%

2. **Assignments**: There will be three written assignments (10% each), out of several topics given, due in class on the dates indicated below. Each assignment will involve preparing a short discussion paper (maximum = three double-spaced pages). They are due on: **September 13, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 17, November 29, 2017**. (Choose 3 of the 6 dates).

   **TOTAL VALUE**: 30%

3. **Examinations**: There will be one quiz (5%) and three short answer examinations (15% each for Exam #1, #2, #3) covering information presented in the class and in class discussions.

   **TOTAL VALUE**: 50%

4. **Project**: Choose one of the following options.

   **OPTION A**

   **Major essay**: It will involve preparing a discussion paper (maximum = ten double-spaced pages, approximately 3000 words) in response to a topic approved by the instructor. No late papers will be accepted.

   Essay is due: **November 21, 2017**.

   **TOTAL VALUE**: 15%

   **OPTION B**

   **Journal**: Keep a journal with at least two entries per week (ideally one for each class day) reflecting your thoughts regarding personality. Include articles of interest with a commentary – these may be from a newspaper or any other form of mainstream media.

   Journal is due: **November 21, 2017**.

   **TOTAL VALUE**: 15%

**Note**: You are responsible for materials in lectures you do not attend. Tests and examinations will contain short-answer questions. Missed examinations with a valid reason will be made up at the earliest convenient time. If you miss an examination due to illness, accident, or family affliction, you must apply get in touch with the instructor. Missed examinations without a valid reason will receive a score of zero.
Mini Assignment Topics:

1. Personality and Humour – are there fundamental differences in the ways males and females use humour? Cultural differences? Is humour part of one’s personality?

2. Define personality – what are proposed structures of personality? Are they enduring?

3. Insanity – is insanity a personality disorder? Can insanity be ‘faked’? It has been suggested that proof of insanity is that an insane individual would not plead ‘insanity’. Is this a useful concept?

4. ‘Changing’ personality through therapy, punishment, medications? Can personality be changed? Across all ages?

5. Disordered personality? Define / are there consistent characteristics in disordered personality? Is this a useful concept or are there too many confound variables?

6. Everyday sadism (Dr. Paulhus – UBC) – Why do we cheer hockey fighting? Those who answered ‘yes’ to questions such as “I enjoy mocking losers to their face” were more likely to kill a bug using a coffee grinder – and ask for more bugs to crunch. What is the difference between everyday and disordered sadism?

7. Compare and contrast temperament and personality.

8. How does the law, medical practice, social culture pathologize males and females?
Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see pages 308-313 of the UVic Calendar September 2017.

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, September 2017, p. 49-51)

- What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled on the last day of classes

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf

- What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled on the last day of classes

Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”. Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

- What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity [link](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html), p. 46-48, UVic Calendar September 2017). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.

2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.

3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.

4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.

5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.

6. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 47 in September 2017).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 46-48 in September 2017) [link](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html).

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Study Solutions Office: [link](https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php)
2. The Ombudsperson’s office: [link](http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf)
3. UVic Library Resources: [link](http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/)
4. Dr. Mitchell of the UVic English Department: [link](http://web.uvic.ca/~amitch/teaching_files/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf)