

UNDERSTANDING THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

Dr. Deborah Bergman Deitcher

Spring semester

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Office Hours: By appointment

Short description:

Various theorists conceive of personality from different focal points – e.g., genetics, environment, traits, etc. This course will examine a variety of these theories. We will learn to compare and contrast between them, and reflect on how they can be applied to ourselves and to others. Some of the theories we will cover include: Psychoanalytic, Humanistic, Cognitive-Behavioral, Social Learning, Evolutionary. We will spend time examining various ways of assessing personality, and discussing the accuracy, validity, and reliability of these methods.

Assessment:

Readings: Assigned readings must be complete **prior** to class. This will facilitate your participation and make the classes more interesting for everyone. You will be provided with a schedule of classes and readings at the beginning of the semester.

Weekly assignments: At the beginning of each week I will provide a short assignment relating to that week's readings/discussion. Responses are short – generally a few paragraphs to a page typed. You are required to respond each week. Responses will be graded on a scale of 0-10. These questions are an assessment of your understanding of the readings as well as a way to jump-start class discussions. The top 8 out of 10 assignment grades will count towards your final grade.

Midterm Exam: Halfway through the semester there will be a midterm exam. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions based on the material we have covered and their application.

Final paper: The final assignment requires watching a movie and writing a paper that analyzes the behaviors of the characters from the perspective of a personality psychologist. The paper is described more fully in a separate document.

Grades: Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 5%

Weekly assignments (top 8 out of 10): 30%

Mid-term exam: 15%

Final paper: 40%

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Cell phones must be turned off or kept in your bag during class