

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 3212 THEORIES OF PERSONALITY - LEVEL 5

**3/0/3
UK CREDITS: 15**

PREREQUISITES: PS 1000 Psychology as a Natural Science
PS 1001 Psychology as a Social Science

CATALOG

DESCRIPTION: Historical and theoretical examination of the concept of personality. Scientific conceptualization of human behaviour and critical evaluation and comparison of personality theories, with respect to comprehensiveness, empirical validity and applied value. Applications of principles of personality development to contemporary society.

RATIONALE: This course examines the development of personality theory from Freud to the present, and is therefore essential as it provides a global view of the field. An understanding of personality theory is important in the application of psychology as a helping professional and as a scientific investigator.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Conceptualise aspects of human behaviour scientifically.
2. Describe the structure of the main personality theories.
3. Identify and trace the development of key concepts in psychological theory.
4. Write integrative essays on selected topics, bringing in material from different theories.
5. Critically evaluate these personality theories on the basis of the following criteria: comprehensiveness, precision/testability, parsimony, empirical validity, heuristic and applied value.
6. Elaborate on the concepts and language used by different theoretical models to define the structure of personality.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, discussions, in-class activities, and case study discussions.
- Office hours
- Use of Blackboard site

ASSESSMENT:

Analytical reaction papers- formative	0%	Reflection and personal reaction to each personality theory, relevance to current social issues and event
Trait Paper Assignment (3,000 words) – summative	40%	Critical appraisal of literature on a selected personality trait
In-class final examination (2-hour, comprehensive) - summative	60%	Essay questions (choice: 3 out of 5)

The formative assessment relates to learning outcomes 1, 3, 5, 6
The Paper Assignment tests learning outcomes 2-5.
The final examination tests learning outcomes 1-6

READING LIST:

1. Required Material

Ryckman, R. M. (2008). *Theories of Personality* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning/Wadsworth.

2. Further Reading: Readings to supplement the basic material covered in the textbook.

Matthews, G., Deary, I. J., & Whiteman, M. C. (2009). *Personality Traits* (3rd ed.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Friedman, H. S., & Schustack, M. W. (2009). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research* (4th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Funder, D. C., & Ozer, D. J. (Eds.). (2010). *Pieces of the Personality Puzzle: Readings in Theory and Research* (5th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton.

Freud, S.(1914) *Psychopathology of Everyday Life*. New York: Macmillan.

E. Erikson.(1968) *Identity:Youth and Crisis*

Rogers, C.R.(1967). *On Becoming A Person*.London: Constable& Robinson Ltd

B.F. Skinner (1948) *Walden Two*.

Bouchard, T. J. (2004). Genetic Influence on Human Psychological Traits. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 13(4), 148-151.

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Journal of Research in Personality
Personality and Individual Differences
European Journal of Personality
Journal of Personality
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Journal of Personality Assessment

WWW RESOURCES:

Society for Personality and Social Psychology
<http://www.spsp.org>
The Personality Project
<http://www.personality-project.org>
Great Ideas in Personality
<http://www.personalityresearch.org>

- INDICATIVE CONTENT:**
1. Personality as a construct
 2. Problems of definition in personality theory
 3. Major theoretical perspectives
 - 3.1. Freud
 - 3.2. Jung
 - 3.3. Adler
 - 3.4. Horney
 - 3.5. Erikson
 - 3.6. The humanists
 - 3.7. The existentialists
 - 3.8. Cognitive theorists
 - 3.9. The behaviorists
 - 3.10. The psychometric approach
 4. A synthesis of viewpoints