

**PSY 203, Theories of Personality**  
**Department of Communication and Media Studies and Psychology, Fall 2018**

Instructor:	Antonio Bova, Ph.D.
Instructor's Email	abova@fus.edu
Office location:	Main Villa, Office 8
Office Hours:	M 15:45-16:45 and by appointment
Class location	Main Villa, Classroom 4
Class meeting times	M/Th 17:30-18:45

Please contact me for any course related matters. I am open to receiving e-mails from students but I get on average 30 emails per day and therefore I ask that you put PSY203 as the subject in your email. These e-mails will be answered usually within 48 hours but not later than one week. Please use your student e-mail account when sending me a message. I have a spam filter and often non-university email (such as those generated from Hotmail accounts) gets sent to my junk folder which I do not read. I encourage students to speak with me directly after a lecture to set up an appointment.

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

---

The course presents a comprehensive in-depth study of the nature of personality, including how it is defined, measured, conceptualized, and influenced by biological and environmental factors. The major theories of personality that are prominent and important today in the field of psychology are considered individually in detail and comparatively. This includes theories from psychodynamic, developmental, humanistic, behavioral, cognitive, biological and cross-cultural perspectives.

The overall aim is to introduce students to the fundamental questions, ideas and approaches in the study of personality. To this end, the course also emphasizes an understanding of the research methods and findings in the field, focusing on research from many different cultures around the world.

## **II. RATIONALE**

---

This is an elective course that counts towards the requirements in the psychology minor, major and combined major.

### **III. COURSE GOALS**

---

The goals of this course are as follows:

1. Introduce students to the major theoretical models of personality;
2. Introduce students to scientific research and peer-reviewed publications;
3. Assist students in synthesizing information from diverse subject areas and methods of study within the field of personality development;
4. Help students understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social and organizational issues;
5. Encourage students to tolerate ambiguity, respect the complexity of sociocultural diversity, act ethically, and reflect the values that are the foundation of psychology as a discipline.

### **IV. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES**

---

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major theoretical models of personality;
2. Access, read, and critically evaluate peer review articles in psychology journals;
3. Demonstrate an ability to integrate knowledge and present it effectively through oral presentations;
4. Exhibit listening, questioning, and verbal expression skills in group discussions;
5. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

### **V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

---

- Power Point Presentations
- Specifics literature about different topics will be given in class

### **VI. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

---

Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you obtain with respect to a total of 200 points.

Regular reading and review of information provided is essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 70 points. The key to success on these exams is to keep up with the reading, take notes and study.

To help keep you on track and provide interim feedback on your understanding of specific topics, there will be two quizzes, each worth 20 points.

Finally, attendance and class participation will be noted. If you have no more than two unexcused absences and you actively participate in the class, you might be awarded up to 20 points to be applied toward your final grade.

In this way, your final evaluation will be determined by several different means, providing a well-balanced reflection of your effort and ability to integrate the material throughout the course.

---

## **VI GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

---

Final grades will be determined based on the following weighting:

Midterm Exam 35%

Final Exam 35%

Quiz 1 10%

Quiz 2 10%

Attendance and Class Participation 10%

Failure to complete an exam or the research paper will result in failing the course.

### **An approximate guide for final grades is as follows:**

A: 191-200 total points; A-: 181-190 total points

B+: 174-180 total points; B: 167-173 total points; B-: 161-166 total points

C+: 154-160 total points; C: 147-153 total points; C-: 141-146 total points

D+: 134-140 total points; D: 127-133 total points; D-: 121-126 total points

F: 119 total points and below

## **VIII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- As logistically as possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.
- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.

- 
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.
  - A student found cheating on an exam will be given an “F” for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student may be given an “F” for the course.
  - A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an “F” for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

## **X. COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>MAIN THEMES</b>
27 August	Introduction: What is personality?
3 September	Personality theories and models: An overview
6 September	Consciousness and Perception
10 September	Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory
13 September	Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory
17 September	Jung's Analytical Theory
20 September	Adler's Individual Theory
24 September	<b>Quiz 1</b>
27 September	Horney's Social and Cultural Theory
1 October	Erikson's Ego Psychoanalytic Theory
8 October	Bowlby: Attachment Theory
11 October	Bowlby: Attachment Theory
15 October	Cattell's Structural Theory
18 October	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>

### **ACADEMIC TRAVEL**

5 November	Learning Theory Approaches: Skinner
8 November	Eysenck's Biological Theory
12 November	Albert Ellis and Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy
15 November	Rotter's Expectancy-Reinforcement Theory
19 November	Bandura: Observational Learning
22 November	Bandura: Observational Learning
26 November	<b>Quiz 2</b>
3 December	Maslow and Rogers: Humanistic Approach
6 December	Kelly's Personal Construct Theory & May's Existential Theory
10 December	<b>Final Exam (Monday)</b>