

## Advanced Topics in Personality Psychology

01:830:441 MW5 (3:20-4:40) LSH B-115

Spring, 2011

Instructor: Dan Ogilvie

Tillett Hall 635

### Purpose

The purpose of this course is to create opportunities for students to think, talk, and write about important topics in the field of personality psychology. My working definition of the discipline of personality psychology is it is a field of inquiry that seeks to understand the development, current status of, and imagined future affective, behavioral, and mental coping strategies that characterize individuals' conscious and unconscious modes of adaptation to past, present, and future life circumstances. Both explicitly and implicitly, this definition will be our guide for organizing information about the field.

### Required books

I will assign several articles during the semester, but there are four books you should purchase. Most of them are paperbacks and are cheap if ordered on-line. One of them, *Fantasies of Flight* is not yet out in paperback, but used copies abound at Rutgers.

The list includes:

Becker, E. (1973). *The Denial of Death*. NY: The Free Press.

Damasio, A. (1999). *The Feeling of What Happens*. NY: Harcourt.

Jung, C. (1957). *The Undiscovered Self*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Ogilvie, D. M. (2003) *Fantasies of Flight*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Stern, D. N. (1985). *The Interpersonal World of the Infant*. NY: Basic Books.

### Attendance

Attendance is not an option. The course starts at 3:20 PM and it is my habit to begin on time. Unexcused absences and late arrivals will result in grade deductions.

### Texting, Social Networking, and Internet Surfing

None of these activities are permitted during class time

### Grades

Final grades will be determined by the quality of 10 short papers (30% of grade), a mid-term exam (25% of grade), final exam (35% of grade) and class participation (10% of grade).

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>Paper Assignments</b>
Wed., 1/19	Introduction to course	None	None
Mon., 1/24	Freud's Psychoanalytic Psychology (Part 1)	<u>Civilization and Its Discontents</u> , pp. 1-50	None
Wed., 1/26	Freud's Psychoanalytic Psychology (Part II)	<u>Civilization and Its Discontents</u> , PP. 50 to end	Summarize one of Freud's central themes in <u>C&amp;D</u> and state your personal opinions about that theme in 2 double-spaced pages
Mon., 1/31	Carl Jung's Analytic Psychology (Part I)	<u>The Undiscovered Self</u> , Ch. 1-3	None
Wed., 2/2	Carl Jung's Analytic Psychology (Part II)	<u>The Undiscovered Self</u> , Ch. 4-8	Summarize one of Jung's central themes in his book state your personal opinions about that theme in 2-pages
Mon., 2/7	The Problem of death (Part I)	<u>Denial of Death</u> Preface and Ch.'s 1-3	None
Wed., 2/9	The Problem of death (Part II)	<u>Denial of Death</u> , Ch.'s 4-6	Summarize one of Becker's main themes and comment on it in a 2-page essay
Mon., 2/14	Terror Management Research (Part 1)	TBD	None
Wed., 2/17	Terror Management Research (Part II)	TBD	In 2-pages summarize your understanding of TMT research in a manner that demonstrates your understanding of its principles
Mon., 2/21	Daniel Stern's stages	Selected chapters	None

	of self development	from <u>The Interpersonal World of the Infant</u>	
Wed., 2/23	More on Stern	Selected chapters from <u>The Interpersonal World of the Infant</u>	Select one of Stern's observations about infant development and write a 2-page commentary about that observation
Mon., 2/28	Antonio Damasio's stage of self-dev.	<u>Feeling of Being</u> Intro and Part I	None
Wed., 3/2	More on Damasio	<u>Feeling of Being</u> Part II, Ch. 2-4	None
Mon., 3/7	More on Damasio	<u>Feeling of Being</u> Part III, Ch. 5-8	In a 2-page paper, summarize Damasio's main contributions to our understanding of early self-development
Wed., 3/9	The frontal lobe	None	
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
Mon., 3/21	<b>Hour Exam</b> (You will select 2 of 3 essay questions pertaining to topics covered in the first half of the course)		
Wed., 3/23	The place of case Studies in psychological Research	<u>Fantasies of Flight</u> Part I (chapters 1-6 and a TBA on-line article)	None
Mon., 3/28	Prototypical Scenes (James Barrie)	<u>Fantasies of Flight</u> Part II (chapters 7-12) and a TBA on-line article	None
Wed., 3/30	Prototypical Scenes (Carl Jung)	<u>Fantasies of Flight</u> Part II (ch. 13-14)	2-page paper highlighting your understanding of prototypical scenes
Mon., 4/4	The Anatomy of Internalized Beliefs	TBD	None

Wed., 4/6	The Symbolic Self	On-line article by Sedikides	2-page essay on why possessing a symbolic self is an adaptive advantage for human beings
Mon., 4/11	The Traveling Self and soul beliefs	TBD	None
Wed., 4/13	Calming the “internal milieu”	TBD	2-page paper on the relationship between beliefs and feelings
Mon., 4/18	Cognitive Development In Childhood	TBD	None
Wed., 4/20	Theory of Mind	TBD	TBD
Mon., 4/25	Are children natural Dualists?	TBD	None
Wed., 4/27	Wrap up		
Mon., 5/2	Submission of take-home exam that will be comprised of essays written in response to 3 essay questions.		