



Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Boston  
**The Center for Urban Ministerial Education-CUME**  
CO 611 Theories of Personality  
**Class hours: Wednesday @ 7:00PM-10:00PM**  
Instructor: Dr. Carlot D. Celestin  
**Email: ccelestin@gcts.edu**

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### **Course Description**

This class offers an understanding and critique of the historical and contemporary theories of personality development. It integrates psychology and theology to provide its students with a classic and contemporary understanding of theories of personality and how they fit with biblical understanding of human nature. Open to M.A. in counseling students only (Catalog 05/07).

### **Course goal**

The goal of this class is to appraise the characteristics and tendencies of personality that determine commonality and differences in human behavior. Each class session aims to underline the basic tenets of a personality theory as a psychological worldview and analyze them in light of biblical doctrines.

### **Course objective**

Upon the completion of this semester, students who faithfully attend to the requirements of the class will be able to:

1. Understand the science of individuality.
2. Discuss the fundamental psychological issues involved in the theories of personality.
3. Analyze the differences and similarities of the major views of the personality theories.
4. Delineate and explain each major theory including their core and peripheral characteristics.
5. Evaluate and synthesize his/her own belief concerning human nature and biblical understanding of human.

### **Course Correlation**

This class correlates the core of human behavior from different perspectives: e.g. psychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis and sociology to explain why people do what they do. The instructor will devote equal attention to the theories of personality as well as their theological implications which seeks to characterize the essence of the individual's human condition.

### **Course Textbooks**

1. Beck, R. James. (1999). *Jesus and Personality Theory: exploring the Five-Factor Model*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
2. John, P. Oliver, Richard W. Robins, and Lawrence A. Pervin. (2008). (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). *Handbook of Personality: Theory and Research*. New York: The Guilford Press).
3. Maddi, R. Salvatore. (1996). (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). *Personality Theories: A Comparative Analysis*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.
4. Danny Wedding and Raymond J. Corsini (2008). 5<sup>th</sup> ed. *Case Studies in Psychotherapy*. United States: Thomson Brooks/Cole.



## Class requirements

1. *Reading Log (10%) - Reading Log-* the reading log is a tally of material read for this class. **Due a week from the last day of class. Late work will not be accepted.**  
Grading criteria for the reading assignments
  - a. 2000 Pages =10%
  - b. 1600 Pages = 8%
  - c. 1200 Pages = 6%
  - d. 800 Pages = 4%
  
2. **Two presentations (10% each)-** Each student will have 10 minutes to do a short presentation to the entire class. This presentation is a formulation of their personal view and recommendation of their approach of a discussed theory as presented by Wedding and Corsini in the Case Studies in Psychotherapy. See guideline for presentation
  
3. **Paper 1 (25%) - Present Your Perspective on a Theory of Personality.** In this first paper, the student will concern himself/herself with “the study of individual differences or the dimensions along which people differ from each other.” See the guideline for this paper.
  
4. **Paper 2 (25%) - Analyze an Argument.** In this paper, student will analyze “the study of individual persons as unique, integrated wholes.” See guideline for this paper
  
5. **Annotated Bibliography (20%)-** Student must submit an annotated bibliography. **WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?** An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 250 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

### THE PROCESS

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic. Follow APA guidelines.- **Due a week from the last day of class. Late work will not be accepted.**

### Grading Scale

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. 2 Papers               | = 25%- each |
| 2. 2 Presentations        | = 10%- each |
| 3. Annotated Bibliography | = 20%-      |
| 4. A Reading Log          | = 10%       |



## Course Outline

### Week one- 02/01/11

- Introduction, Part I Maddi
- Introduction, chs. 1-2, Beck
- Introduction, Part I John, Robins and Pervin

### Week two- 02/08/11

- Theories and their Classification, Part II, Maddi

### Week three- 02/15/11

- Theoretical Perspectives, Part II, John, Robbins, and Pervin

### Week four -02/22/11- Reading Week

- Case Studies in Psychoanalysis, chs. 1-5, Wedding and Corsini

### Week five- 02/29/11

- Jesus and the Personality Theories: Exploring the Five-Factor Model, chs. 3-8, Beck-

### Week six- 03/07/11

- Jesus and the Personality Theories: Exploring the Five-Factor Model, chs. 9-12, Beck- **Paper 1 is due- No late work will be accepted.**

### Week seven -03/14/11

- Issues and their resolution, Part III- Maddi

### Week eight – 03/21/11

- Biological Bases, Part III, chs. 9-12, John, Robins and Pervin

### Week nine- 03/28/11-Reading Week

- Case Studies in Psychoanalysis, chs. 6-10, Wedding and Corsini

### Week ten – 04/04/11

- Developmental Approaches, Part IV, chs. 9-12, John, Robins and Pervin

### Week eleven – 04/11/11

- Self and Social Processes, Part V, - John, Robins and Pervin

### Week twelve- 04/18/11

- Cognitive and Motivational Processes, Part VI, John, Robbins and Pervin  
**Paper 2 is due- No late work will be accepted.**

### Week thirteen -04/25/11

- Emotion, adjustment, and health, John, Robins and Pervin



## Bibliography

- Allport, G. W. (1975). *The nature of personality*. Greenwood Press.
- Allport, G. W. (1961). *Pattern and growth in personality*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
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- Bandura, A. & Walters, R. (1963). *Social learning and personality development*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Brody, N. (1988). *Personality*. New York: Academic Press.
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- Carver, C. S. and Scheier, M. F. (1996). *Perspectives on personality*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
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- Catell, R. B. (1980). *Personality and learning theory: A system theory of maturation and structured learning*. 2 vols. New York: Springer Publishers.
- Drapelas, V. J. (1987). *A review of personality theories*. Springfield, IL: Thomas.
- Eysenck, H. J. (1967). *The biological basis of personality*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
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- Magnuson, D. & Endler, N. S. (1977). *Personality at the crossroads: Current issues in interactional psychology*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Maslow, A. (1968). *Toward a psychology of being*. 2nd ed. Van Nos Reinhold.
- Millon, T. & Everly, G. S. (1985). *Personality and its disorders: A biosocial research*. NY: Wiley.
- Millon, T. ed. (1983). *Theories of personality and psychopathology*. 3rd ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Millon, T. (1990). *Toward a new personology*. New York: Wiley.
- Mahrer, A. R. ed. (1970). *New approaches to personality classification*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Pervin, L. A. (1989). *Personality theory and research*. 5th ed. New York: Wiley.
- Pervin, L. A. (1990). *Handbook of personality theory and research*. New York: Guilford.
- Peterson, C. (1988). *Personality*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company.
- Rychlak, J. F. (1981). *Introduction to personality and psychotherapy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Ryckman, R. (1988). *Theories of personality*. 4th ed. New York: Brooks-Cole.
- Smith, B. D. & Vetter, H. J. eds. (1983). *Advances in personality assessment*. 2 vols. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Journals:
- Journal of personality and social psychology*
- Journal of personality*
- Journal of research in personality and individual differences*