COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to provide the student with meaningful opportunities to:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of the major approaches to personality theory.

2. Become acquainted with major issues within the realm of personality theory which prompted research and applications to clinical situations. To develop a theoretical basis for practical therapeutic purposes.

3. Integrate such knowledge and understanding with biblical anthropological data, theological postulates, and personal reflection.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbook


Journals articles and other sources listed in the bibliography are also recommended to supplement the research for the course.

Readings

The first aspect consists in researching and reading the available literature on the different theories to be covered, beyond the specific aspects of preparedness for the class presentation. Such readings will be annotated in a log. The student is expected to read 2000 pages for the course. Readings may be chosen from:

1. The bibliography attached
2. Journals in the field
3. Materials of applicable and functional value, provided that these represent an adequate level of significance to the subject matter.

To account for this requirement, the student will keep a log of readings, with the following entries:

1. Date
2. Author(s) and source
3. Title of the book, chapter or journal article
4. Number of pages - individual entries per reading and total number of pages at the end.

Due: **May 4th, 2012.**

**Final Take Home Exam**

Based upon content drawn from readings, class presentations, and interaction. The format includes short answers, essay-type. Given to students on **April 19, 2012.**

Due: **April 26, 2012.**

**Final Paper**

A research paper is required, dealing with the choice of an approach to personality theory. Such thrust could be focused on one of the following:

- Psychoanalytical
- Factor theory
- Social cognitive
- Cognitive-affective
- Humanistic-existential
- Holistic interactionism
- A critique and response to evolutionary theory of personality

The student is expected to demonstrate an adequate grasp of the formulations, premises, and investigation in the area of personality theory, and **write a critical presentation**, including personal interaction with the subject matter.

1. Format: Ten to twelve (8-10) pages, plus a bibliography in APA style.
2. Due: **May 4th, 2012.**

Plus: **Integrative Appendix** - The student is also expected to attach an appendix to the paper, in which notions or ideas about an integrated theory of personality may be sketched with a personal and creative expression. Notions of "personhood" may add to
such personal reflection or version, integrating theological reflection, biblical anthropology, and psychological theory and research. The length of such appendix is expected to be four to five (4-5) single-spaced pages.

**Class Format**

The class will meet as scheduled. The first hour will focus on the textbook/additional readings and the instructor will be the main presenter. Following such introduction, the relevant portions of the text and recommended readings must be read before class so that the material can be discussed in small groups.

**Attendance**

The student is expected to attend all classes and participate in the classroom experience. There will be two breaks each class period.

**Grade**

The final grade will reflect the combined efforts of the student, as gathered from the results of the term paper (40%), the final exam (40%), and the reading log (20%).

**Office Hours:**

The instructor is available for students to consult with; the hours will be posted and arrangements can be made through Shiri or Bonnie to that effect. The professor’s extension is 4116; his e mail is Pablo@gordonconwell.edu.
CO 611 Theories of Personality Course Outline

Session: Topic:

1. Introduction. A framework to study personality.
   Philosophical roots: Kantian, Lockean, mixed models
   History of modern personality theory.
   The basic sources of data and research methods

2. Psychodynamic theory: Freud and the psychoanalytic view
   Psychosocial approaches
   Ego psychology (Erikson, Hartmann)
   Object relations position

3. Psychodynamic aspects-Continued
   Issues: The psychological unconscious
   Adlerian thoughts on personality
   Jung and analytical psychology
   Gestalt psychology

4. Humanistic and existential considerations
   Rogers’s position.
   Maslow’s model. Allport’s notions

5. Learning and cognitive approaches to personality
   Social cognitive theory: Bandura
   Cognitive-affective personality systems
   Kelly’s constructivism. Mischel
6. Factor and typological theories: Using personality traits to understand behavior
   Catell, Eynseck, McCrae, Costa
   Assessment of personality
   Issues: Temperament, a new paradigm for trait psychology

7. Interface with other fields:
   Behavior genetics, biological aspects
   Neuroscience and personality

8. Personality and the narrative approach (McAdams)
   The dialogical self (Hermans)
   The Trialogical Self

9. Executive functions, top-down agency
   Motivation and personality
   Emotion and self-regulatory processes

    Final comments.

CO 611 BIBLIOGRAPHY


