

Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: PSY-208 Theories of Personality

Date:

Course/Program Team: Louise Wine

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss and apply to his/her life the basic concepts of the Psychoanalytic, Neoanalytic, Cognitive, Behavioral, Trait, and Humanistic perspectives
2. Formulate his/her own theory of personality, describing the basic personality constructs and dynamics of these constructs, the development of personality, causes of psychopathology, and potential therapeutic interventions.

Assessment (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Three unit tests addressing the core concepts of the various theories of personality requiring knowledge, comprehension, analysis, & synthesis of the material.

Three critical thinking assignments which require students to apply theories to their personal experiences.

A formal paper describing the student's own theory of personality, answering the following questions: What do you believe determines the personality that we each possess? What role (if any), do the following play in personality development: free will, unconscious determinants, learning, early developmental influences, and heredity? What can cause an unhealthy personality to emerge? How might that be prevented and/or treated?

This paper is a synthesis activity which requires the student to develop his/her own integrated theory of personality. It must cite any theorist(s) his/her position might be consistent with regarding each of these issues.

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Test questions are taken from the text's publisher's test bank. These questions have been validated on a large population of students.

The critical thinking assignments & personal theory of personality are assessed on internal validity.

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

Initial test results were low with respect to basic comprehension of the various theories, especially considering that most of these students plan to be psychology majors.

During the F10 semester, the overall average score on tests was 78%. Of the 19 students, 5 received A's, 6 received B's, 7 received C's and one received an F. The average score for the Personal Theory paper was 84.4%, with 12 receiving a's, 4 receiving B's, 1 receiving a C, and 2 receiving D's.

During the SP11 semester, the overall average score on tests was again 78%, Of the 27 students, 8 received A's, 13 received B's, and 6 received C's. The average score for the Personal Theory paper was 93.7%, with 23 receiving A's, 2 receiving B's, and 2 receiving C's.

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

As a result of the poor comprehension in the past, I have attempted to adjust instruction to emphasis key themes, concepts, etc. in order to reinforce the main ideas in each perspective.

Changes in instruction seem to be improving outcomes on the Personal Theory papers, but so far there has been no noticeable change in test scores. I will continue to work on this.

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)

Additional video resources would enhance the quality of the class presentations.