

Course Outcomes Guide

Course/Program Title: PSY 208 Theories of Personality

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Course/Program Team: Louise Wine

Expected Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss the basic concepts of the Psychoanalytic, Neoanalytic, Cognitive, Behavioral, Trait, and Humanistic perspectives as they apply to his/her life.
- Formulate his/her own theory of personality, describing the basic personality constructs and dynamics of these constructs as they relate to basic philosophical questions of human existence.

Assessment

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 case studies.

A formal paper describing the student's own theory of personality, answering the following questions:

Are people more rational/logical or do they act more on emotions?

Is behavior motivated by conscious or unconscious drives?

What are the basic motives behind human behavior?

Are human motives self-serving or altruistic?

Is the behavior of others influenced more by inner drives, basic personality characteristics, or the demands of the situation?

Is human nature basically healthy and good or primitive and self-serving?

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

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, employing a rubric.

Results

Over the past 3 years, grade distribution has been fairly consistent, with the majority of students earning A's and B's. I have included more case studies to encourage students to apply the theories to improve comprehension. This seems to have resulted in improvement in test scores, with class averages showing gradual improvements.

The personal theory paper has improved over the past several semesters as well.

Follow-up

As a result of the poor comprehension in the past, I have attempted to adjust instruction to emphasize key themes, concepts, etc. in order to reinforce the main ideas in each perspectives, integrating more discussion, analysis, and case study applications.

Budget Justification

No additional resources needed at this time.