

**DePaul University**  
**School of New Learning**  
**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN**  
**Spring 2003**

Faculty: Anthony A. Kopera, Ph.D.  
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Hours: Saturday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Alternate Saturdays  
April 5 - May 31

Location: Barat

Pre-1999 Competencies HC-4, PW-2, PW-4, PW-5  
BA-1999 Competencies H-3-A, S-1-A, S-2-A, S-2-C

HC-4, H-3-A Can use two or more theories of human psychology to understand and solve problems.

PW-2, S-1-A Can explore natural phenomena or the world of everyday experiences using scientific methods, and can use theories to interpret observations.

PW-4, S-2-A Can describe, differentiate, and explain form, function and variation within biological systems.

PW-5, S-2-C Can describe, categorize, and explain development or change within physical or biological systems.

Course Description: Self-awareness distinguishes humans from other species of animals and allows us to raise questions about ourselves. Personality theorists examine and attempt to understand and explain us as individuals with origins, motives, goals and limits. Their theories of human behavior may be studied from a variety of perspectives that provide insight into human nature and the nature of science. This course will use psychological perspectives of personality as a vehicle for examining science as a specific, rule-governed approach to the solution of problems both theoretical and practical.

Expected Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Possess some understanding of scientific approaches to problems in general and psychological problems specifically.
2. Have a basic knowledge of several psychological theories of personality.
3. Be familiar with a series of principles useful for evaluating theories.
4. Be capable of presenting, analyzing, and evaluating psychological theories.

#### Learning Strategies:

1. Readings
2. Lectures
3. Discussions
4. Videos
5. Written Assignments

Text: Engler, Barbara; **Personality Theories: An Introduction**, Sixth Edition, Houghton Mifflin, 2003  
(Try shopping at [ecampus.com](http://ecampus.com), or [etext.com](http://etext.com), or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) to save money.)

#### Competence Criteria and Evaluation

There are **three** written assignments. **Two** essay exams (mid-term and final) will be used to assess the competencies in a general way by providing a vehicle for the demonstration of the student's capability for analytical, evaluative, and logical thought. **Additionally**, students will be asked to write **one** research paper, focused in such a way as to demonstrate the specific competence(s) for which they have registered. The competencies, restated to reflect this course, follow.

HC-4, H-3-A: A critical examination of the utility of two personality theories in understanding and solving problems.

PW-2, S-1-A: A critical examination of a personality theorist's attempt to describe and explain psychological phenomena, specifically, human personality.

PW-4, S-2-A: A critical examination of the relationship between biological and psychological systems.

PW-5, S-2-C: A critical examination of theories dealing with the relationship between psychological and biological systems in human development.

The **two exams** and **research paper** will each contribute **one-third** of the course grade, with classroom contributions considered as an added factor. The two exams will be "take-home", with the final exam mailed to the instructor at his home.

**The due date for the final exam will be approximately one week after the last class meeting.**

**The research paper is due at the last class meeting.**

#### Topics and Time Framework

- Week 1 Introduction: This Course -- Science, Theory, and Psychology; Sigmund Freud  
 Assignment: Text: Read Chapters 1 and 2  
 Introduction: Evaluating Personality Theories  
 Psychoanalysis: Sigmund Freud  
 Begin research paper
- Week 2 Sigmund Freud (continued); Carl Jung  
 Discussion: How well did Freud do in his attempt to understand and explain us?  
 What's your type? Carl Jung  
 Assignment: Text: Review Chapter 2; Read Chapter 3  
 Analytical Psychology: Carl Jung  
 Continue work on research paper
- Week 3 Alfred Adler; Erik Erikson; Behaviorism: An Introduction  
 Video: **Erik Erikson: A Life's Work**  
 Assignment: Text: Read Chapter 4 and 6 (pp. 144-165)  
 Individual Psychology: Alfred Adler  
 Ego Psychology: Erik Erikson

### **MID-TERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED**

- Week 4 John Dollard & Neal Miller, B.F. Skinner  
 Videos: **Paradigms; Behavioral Treatment of Autistic Children**  
 Assignment: Mid-Term Exams Due  
 Text: Read Chapter 8 and 15  
 Experimental Analysis of Behavior:  
 John Dollard & Neal Miller, B.F. Skinner  
 Personal Constructs: George Kelly  
 Continue work on research paper
- Week 5 Gordon Allport, Carl Rogers & Abraham Maslow  
 Assignment: Text: Read Chapters 10 (pp. 256-269) and 13  
 Traits And Personology: Gordon Allport  
 Humanism: Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers  
**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**  
**FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED**

**Class Meeting Dates: April 5, 19, May 3, 17, 31**