



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY- AFRICA

PSY 3110A: PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY

CREDIT: 3 UNITS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mary Runo

Tel No.0721381513

Email: mruno@usiu.ac.ke/maryruno@gmail.com

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The course will introduce the students to this area; the role played by one's personality in determining his/her behavior, determinants of personality, both physical and environmental, how personalities are judged and the implications of these judgments etc.

The main goal of this course is to enable the student grasp the concept of personality in a manner that will help his/ her understanding of own personality as well as personalities of those he/ she interacts with including significant others. The course also aims at preparing those pursuing psychology as a field of study, acquire knowledge that will enable them to understand and appreciate similar and related courses at postgraduate levels.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME:

The course will allow the student to:

- (a) Articulate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and historical trends in psychology
- (b) Apply basic research methods in psychology including design, data analysis and interpretation
- (c) Apply critical and creative thinking, inquiry, and scientific approach to problems related to behavior and mental processes
- (d) Employ psychological principles in personal, social and organizational issues.
- (e) Apply effective strategies for self management and self improvement
- (f) Integrate and implement psychological knowledge, skills and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME

By the time the student completes this course, they should have acquired the following:

- (a) Define major concepts and relate personality to psychology

- (b) Describe personality research methods and their relationship to understanding human behavior
- (c) Distinguish various personality approaches and relate each to oneself
- (d) Develop defense mechanisms as coping devices
- (e) Differentiate between normal and abnormal personality

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will define personality and discuss the main characteristics of personality including the difference between personality and individuality. We will discuss first impressions and the role they play in judging personalities as well as how these impressions are formed. We will talk about the self-concept and its meaning. We will talk about social adjustment, defense mechanisms, the abnormal personality etc.

Week 1

Overview, Definitions, Terms and Concepts

Week 2

Brief Historical background

Self-concept

Week 3

Traits and habits

Week 4

The Big Five Personality Traits

Week 5

Determinants of personality

Week 6

Personality adjustment

Week 7

MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION

Week 8

Defense Mechanisms

Week 9

Personality Theories 1

Week 10

Personality Theories 2

Week 11

Abnormal personality
(Disorders of personality)

Week 12

Personality and culture

Week 13

Research methods in psychology

Week 14

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology in this class will include both lectures and discussions.

COURSE TEXT

1. Burger, Jerry M, (2019) Personality, Cengage Learning Inc . USA

Extra Reading Materials

2. Duane P. Schultz & Sydeny E.Schultz (2005). Theories of Personality (8th.ed).Wadsworth
3. Jess Feist & Gregory J.Feist (2008).Theories of Personality (7th,ed).McGraw-Hill

TEACHING METHODS

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Assignments
- Class presentations
- Handouts

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Attendance and course evaluation 5%
2. Group Discussions (4) 25%
3. Quizzes (2) 10%
4. Individual Report 10%
5. Midterm examination 20%
6. Final examination 30%

Total 100%

GRADING

90-100 A
87-89 A-
84-86 B+
80-83 B
77-79 B-
74-76 C+
70-73 C
67-69 C-
64-66 D+
62-63 D
60-61 D-
59 Below F

Note:

Project-10%

The project will be based on testing at least 2 people (either family members or friends) and it can be done online). The project will be research based employing both quantitative and qualitative methods. Each student will be expected to test him/herself online in order to practice online testing. While the individual testing will not be graded, it will be a **prerequisite** to the project and therefore it must be handed in. The finished work should have introduction, sample of the online test, all the 5 computer generated summaries of the test results from the family members/friends (quantitative data), analyzed data from the interviews (qualitative data), your opinion and the conclusion. The well typed and aligned paper should be 7-9 pages. Free online link for personality testing will be provided by the instructor.

Group discussions

Group discussion questions will be given in **weeks 2, 4, 8, and 11**. You are expected to fully participate in the group discussions. Your participation will be traced on the blackboard forum and marked accordingly. Each discussion question will be 5% of the total marks. Each discussion question should be well researched and written using most recent APA Standards with 2-4 references. It should not exceed 3 pages.

Ensure to select a leader/coordinator in your group who will be posting the work on the Black board. All discussion questions should be handed in **one week** after being issued. **See the Table below:**

N/S	Discussion Question	Assigned week	Handing in
1	Discussion/Group Assignment 1	Week 2	Week 3
2	Discussion /Group Assignment 2	Week 4	Week 5
3	Discussion /Group Assignment 3	Week 8	Week 9
4	Discussion /Group Assignment 4	Week 11	Week 12

Quizzes

There will be 2 quizzes to be administered during **week 6 and 12**

Key Institutional Academic Policies

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students' Handbook:

1. Academic dishonesty

- a. **Any intentional giving or use of external assistance** during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- b. **Fabrication:** any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- c. **Plagiarism:** any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- d. **Previously Submitted Work:** presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

2. Class Attendance

Students are required to attend the classroom sessions on **Saturdays (9:00AM to 12:20 pm)**. **Only a maximum of 7 absences is allowed during the entire semester.** In this case a student who misses more than 3 lectures **will automatic attract an "F"**.

TAKE NOTE OF ALL OTHER DETAILS ON BLACKBOARD