Syllabus

Course: Psychology 2010 -- Psychology as a Human Science
Time and Location: MWF 9:05-9:55, 1301 TLC
Texts and Readings: All readings will be posted on CourseDen
Professor: Dr. Eric Dodson
Office: 221 Melson Hall, ph. 678-839-0622, edodson@westga.edu
Office Hours: MWF 7-8:30, MW 10:30-12, TTh 7:30-9
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Course Objective: This gateway course is intended to introduce beginning psychology majors to the major philosophical and methodological alternatives to psychology as a natural science. This exploration will include: third and fourth force psychologies, integrative psychology, postmodernism, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, eco-psychology, qualitative research methodologies, narrative psychology, critical psychology, literature, mythology. This course will serve as preparation for more advanced study in the UWG major.

Course Content:
I. Introduction
   A. Psychology as a Natural Science
      1. Empiricism
      2. Experimentation
      3. Quantification
      4. Reductionism & atomism
      5. Biological Psychology
      6. Behavioral Psychology
      7. Cognitive-Behavioral Psychology
      8. Social-cultural Psychology
   B. Psychology as Human Science
      1. Psychoanalysis
      2. Humanistic Psychology
      3. The Primacy of Experience
      4. Qualitative Approaches
   C. Positivism
   D. Post-positivism
   E. History and Current Status of UWG’s Psychology Dept.

II. Humanistic Psychology
   A. Definition and Principal Themes
   B. History of Humanistic Psychology
   C. Holism
   D. Qualitative Research Methodology
E. Human Potential and Self-actualization
F. Carl Rogers: Client-Centered Therapy & Unconditional Positive Regard
G. Abraham Maslow: Hierarchy of Needs & Self-actualization
H. Rollo May: Existential Psychology & Existentialism
I. Linkages to Phenomenology

III. Phenomenology & Phenomenological Psychology
A. Definition and The Primacy of Subjectivity
B. Pure Phenomenology: Definition
  1. Husserl
  2. The Natural Attitude
  3. Bracketing
  4. The Phenomenological Attitude
C. Existential Phenomenology: Definition
  1. Heidegger: Dasein, Being-in-the-World
  2. Sartre: Freedom & Responsibility
  3. Merleau-Ponty: The Body-Subject
D. Phenomenological Philosophy vs. Phenomenological Psychology

IV. Existentialism & Existential Psychology
A. Relation to Phenomenology
B. Relation to Ontology
C. Dasein & Holism
D. The “I am Experience”
E. Authenticity & Inauthenticity
F. Kierkegaard: Passion & Commitment, Subjective Truth
G. Nietzsche: Overcoming, Master/Slave Morality, Ubermensch, The Will to Power
H. Sartre: For-itself vs. In-itself, Freedom/Responsibility
I. De Beauvoir: Existential Ethics & The Practice of Freedom
J. Merleau-Ponty: Corporeality & The Body-Subject
K. Camus: The Absurd & Philosophical Suicide
L. Buber: I-Thou vs. I-it, Relation, Theism
M. Kafka: The Critique of Modernity
N. Existential Psychology in the 21st Century: Kirk Schneider

V. Transpersonal Psychology
A. Definition & History
B. Transpersonal Psychology vs. Humanistic Psychology
C. Connection to East/West Psychology
D. Wilbur: Transpersonal Development & the Pre/Trans Fallacy
E. Mashburn: The Spiral-Dynamic Perspective
F. Grof: Holotropic Breath-Work
G. Ferrer: The Participatory Turn

VI. Eastern Psychology
A. Linkage to Transpersonal Psychology
B. Buddhist Psychology
   1. The Four Noble Truths & The Eightfold Path
   2. Impermanence
   3. Dependent Origination
   4. An-Atman
   5. Enlightenment
   6. Meditation & Shunyata
   7. Theraveda & The Arhat
   8. Mahayana & The Bodhisattva, Compassion, Upaya
   9. Vajrayana & Tantra
   10. Intelligence Re-Conceived
   11. Psychopathology Re-Conceived
   12. Freedom Re-Conceived
   13. Implications for Psychological Development

VII. Critical Psychology
A. Critical Theory
   1. Linkage to Social Justice
   2. Linkage to Marxist Theory
   3. Butler: Performative Gender
B. Critical Psychology
   1. Parker: Four Components of Critical Psychology
   2. Linkage to Social Justice, Activism and the Analysis of Power

VIII. Post-Structuralism & Psychology
A. Linkage to Critical Psychology
B. Structuralism: Saussure
   1. Structural Linguistics: Signifiers and their Referents
   2. Semiotics: Meaning Re-Conceived
   3. Negative Relations between Signifiers
   5. The Structuralist View of Existential and Humanistic Psychologies
C. Post-Structuralism
   1. Synchronic vs. Diachronic Linguistics: Etymology
   2. The Indefinite Deferral of Meaning
   3. The Primacy of Language: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
   4. Foucault: Genealogy, Archeology, Analysis of Power
   6. Derrida: Deconstruction, Differance, Relations to Saussurean Linguistics
   7. Baudrillard: Simulation, Technology, Hyper-Reality
D. Discourse Analysis: Performative Speech Acts

IX. Miscellany
A. Parapsychology: Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Psychokinesis, etc.
B. Ecopsychology
   1. The Biophilia Hypothesis
   2. The Gaia Hypothesis
   3. The Critique of Consumerism & Materialism
   4. Sustainability
C. The Psychology of Technology
   1. Technology as a Mode of Consciousness
   2. Effects on the Perception of Time and Space
   3. Effects on Attention: ADHD
   4. Effects on Values
   5. Technology’s Hidden Costs
   6. Psychology as a Technological Artifact
D. Shamanism & Self-Transcendence
   1. The Simultaneity of Worlds
   2. Psychedelic Experience & Trance-States
   3. Honoring and Reclaiming Tribal Wisdom
E. Summary of Course Content
F. My Personal Biases
G. How to Get into Graduate School
H. Vocational Areas within Psychology

Class Notes and Reviews Guides will be posted on CourseDen, and probably updated once or twice per week. Make sure to keep checking for these materials throughout the semester.

Grading: There will be four non-cumulative multiple-choice tests, each worth a quarter of your final grade. The majority of the test questions will come from the class notes. However, some of the test questions will come from the videos I show in class and/or unusual things that happen in class. So, it’s a good idea to keep apprised of all of that. The dates of the tests will be announced in class. The last of the four tests will occur during finals-week, as scheduled by the university. If for some reason you are unable to take a test at the assigned time, you can see me ahead of time to arrange to take the test before everyone else does – without penalty. However, if you have to wait until after everyone else takes the test, you will be graded at a 10% penalty (to compensate for the advantage you’d have in taking the test at your convenience, rather than with the rest of the class).

Tests:
Each test will require the student to bring a blank SCANTRON form and a pencil. The SCANTRON form must be form #229629 (that’s the small reddish kind with oval answers). The SCANTRON form must be this specific type. SCANTRON forms can be purchased at several locations across campus (e.g., the bookstore, the TLC, the UCC). No headphones or ear-buds are permitted while taking tests.

Attendance and absences: In this class there is no formal attendance policy, however I have found over the years that students who miss class frequently rarely do well on the tests, and hence rarely receive a good final grade for the course. More importantly, I find that these
students rarely learn anything substantial or valuable from the course, and hence receive very little personal benefit from it.

In light of all of that, if you do need to miss class, you do not need to notify me (except for test days, as described above). Bear in mind that specific test dates are determined in class (except for the date of the last test), so you do need to keep apprised of any in-class announcements; this is YOUR responsibility. Consequently, I don’t give out test dates over the phone or via e-mail. If you miss class and are worried about the next test date, ask a friend and/or show up to class to find out (sorry, but I’ve had too many people abusing this). Also, since tests in this class tend to draw heavily from the class-notes, I highly recommend keeping your notes updated. It’s YOUR responsibility to obtain class-notes if you’re absent.

Extra-credit paper: You may opt to write an extra-credit paper worth 2 to 8 percentage points added to your final average. This paper should focus on how your learning in this class matters to you personally. The basic format of this paper is as follows: 6 to 8 typed, double-spaced pages of text (not including title, table of contents, space for your name, lengthy quotes, pictures, references (if any), blank filler pages, etc.). Please use 12-point print, with 1-inch margins all around (this should yield 25 lines per page). If your word-processor doesn't easily conform to this format, that's okay -- just make sure that you write extra pages to compensate. The exact due-date will be toward the end of the term, and will be announced in class. All papers that are late, or that are judged by me to be short will be heavily penalized (and yes, I do know all of the tricks for expanding text to fill pages). No papers will be accepted via email.

Cheating: The following are grounds for receiving an immediate grade of F for the course:
1. Cheating on any test (this includes but is not limited to using any crib-sheets, notes, etc.).
2. Plagiarism on any paper (this includes but is not limited to copying text from websites and classmates).

Special Arrangements: Any student who due to disability requires special arrangements to take this course should see me now.

Missed Final Exam: If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.