Syllabus

Course: Psychology 4000 -- Humanistic Psychology
Time and Location: M/W 2:00 – 3:40, 230 Boyd Building
Texts and Readings: Introductory readings written by Dr. Dodson
(“Conversations” on CourseDen)
On Becoming a Person, C. Rogers
The Farther Reaches of Human Nature, A. Maslow
Psychology and the Human Dilemma, R. May
Professor: Dr. Eric Dodson
Office: 221 Melson Hall, ph. 678-839-0622, edodson@westga.edu
Office Hours: M/W 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m., M/W 11:00 – 1:30
Mailbox: Psychology Department Office, First Floor -- Melson Hall

Course Objective: The aim of this course is to provide the student with a basic overview of humanistic psychology, especially with respect to its principal theories, findings and thinkers.

Course Content: Here are the principal questions we’ll be exploring in this course:
What is humanistic psychology’s basic definition?
What is humanistic psychology’s approach?
What are humanistic psychology’s central concepts and vocabulary?
What are humanistic psychology’s fundamental philosophical suppositions and underpinnings?
How did humanistic psychology originate, and what is its history?
How is humanistic psychology related to other schools of psychological thought (such as behavioral, biological, psychoanalytic, social-cultural and cognitive psychologies)?
How is humanistic psychology connected to its related areas of psychological inquiry (such as transpersonal, gestalt, logotherapeutic, existential psychologies)?
What is humanistic psychology’s clinical theory & praxis?
How does humanistic psychology view human suffering?
How does humanistic psychology take up medical-model concepts like assessment, diagnosis and cure?
What does humanistic psychotherapy look like?
How does humanistic psychology go about conducting psychological research?
What is humanistic psychology’s present state and its future course?

Course Requirements:
There will be three non-cumulative multiple-choice tests during the semester, each worth one third of the final grade. The dates of these tests will be announced beforehand in class -- usually a week or so before the test itself. While there is no attendance requirement as such for this course, it is imperative that you keep abreast of what’s going on. Some reasons for this are: (1) test dates are announced in class, (2) much of the material on the tests will come directly from the class notes and discussions, and (3) half of life is just showing up.
Grading:
33.3% for Test #1
33.3% for Test #2
33.3% for Test #3

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 cellphones, headphones or ear-buds are permitted while taking tests.**

Make-up Tests:
Anyone who misses a test must make arrangements to take a make-up test within one week of the original test date. All make-up tests will be graded at a 10% penalty (to compensate for the advantage you would have in taking the test at your convenience).

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).

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 humanistic psychology 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). All papers must be turned in on hard-copy. **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 cell-phones, 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.