

1-1-2003

CO 622 Theories of Personality

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Recommended Citation

Burgess, Harold W., "CO 622 Theories of Personality" (2003). *Syllabi*. Book 1967.
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THEORIES OF PERSONALITY
CO622 – 3 credits
For all Terms and Semesters
2003-04

Date: _____

Student: _____

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This directed reading course focuses attention upon classical theories of personality with the intention of relating their insights to varied modes of care-giving.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop a critical familiarity with personality theory.
2. To foster professional growth, especially for counselors, pastors and other caregivers.
3. To promote self-awareness through informed consideration of one's own personality development.
4. To provide the opportunity to select and do research on a topic related to personality theory.

TEXTUAL READING:

Theories of Personality, by Calvin Hall, Gardiner Lindzey, and John Campbell (Fourth edition).

As the basic reading assignment, fully read all chapters in the text and write a 2-3 page summary---with at least one concluding paragraph suggesting ways in which the substance of the chapter might contribute to your life and profession.

Date these papers as of the day you completed reading the chapter, also record the amount of time you spent reading each chapter. I am assuming that you will invest about 4 hours on average with each chapter.

OTHER READINGS:

Beyond the 650 pages of textual reading, read 1,000 pages from self-selected books and articles. These readings should support your own career plans, but be rooted in the general area of psychology of personality. You will naturally count books and reading hours toward your papers.

Relevant readings can be found in the ATS Library (Library of Congress numbering) between the numbers BF 692 and BF 720ff. But you may also wish to browse in biblical and theological (esp. "anthropology") areas as well as in counseling and pastoral care.

In my opinion “personality” is among the most interesting of all the areas of psychology. Don’t feel you need to read all of any book, though. This is a good opportunity to get acquainted with many writers who can become lifelong friends. Their research and reflection can be a source of enrichment and productive insight to inform and focus both personal and professional growth.

Submit a dated log of your readings: include date, amount of time, and a brief evaluative response. Either 1,000 pages or fifty reading hours will be considered as meeting this “other readings” assignment.

WRITING PROJECT:

Write one 10-12 page paper that explores the development of your own personality. This should be perceived as something of psychological biography with other dimensions of your story being subjected to critique through lenses derived from at least two schools of thought on personality theory.

One key purpose of this paper is self-understanding; another is to experience the explanatory potential of personality theories.

GRADES:

A grade of “**B**” will be earned by completing the above assignments in a timely manner.

A grade above “**B**” may be earned by fulfilling the above assignments in a timely manner with the further submission of a 12-15 page research paper (documented using some consistent style) following up on some topic of your choice growing out of your reading. This research paper should normally have some relationship to the interplay of the psychology of personality with your probable profession. My assumption is that the basic research for this paper could well be done as a part of fulfilling the “other readings” assignment.

All material is to be turned in at one time.

CALENDAR:

Students working with this syllabus may take the course during any term or semester, January through fall. Work is to be completed and in my office by the final Friday of the term or semester for which you register. My grades are expected to the Registrar’s office one week following the term/semester end. Any part, or all, of the work may be done before you register.