COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title : HP2500 Personality and Individual Differences

Pre-requisites : HP1000 + HP1100 or CS2008 (PSMA)

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course is an introductory level survey of classic and fundamental theories in the psychology field of personality and individual differences. The course will focus on some key (and core) theories and perspectives in the field of personality and individual differences, such as the trait and motive perspectives, the biological perspective, the socio-cognitive and the socio-learning perspective, and applications of personality and considerations for using individual difference research in different applications, such as in therapy, for assessment purposes, and in understanding gender and cultural differences.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. Explain the definition of personality, as understood by personality psychologists
2. List down three levels of analysis from which psychologists can study personality
3. List the key perspectives in the field of personality psychology
4. Describe the different methods of assessing personality constructs and study designs for researching personality and the criteria for evaluating merits of these methods (using reliability and validity)
5. Summarize the theoretical perspective behind the dispositional approach to personality psychology
6. Identify and explain the major constructs, theorists, and theories in the dispositional perspective (i.e., traits, Big Five traits, motives, Eysenck, Cattell, Murray, McClelland, etc.)Understand the principle behind the biological perspective of personality
7. Describe the major constructs, theorists, and theories in the biological perspective (i.e., Extroversion, BIS/BAS, Grey, Eysenck, impulsivity, sensation seeking testosterone, twin studies, gender differences, etc.)
8. List down the strengths and weaknesses of various biological models of personality
9. Explain how classical and operant conditioning principles can be used to describe how personality and individual differences develop
10. Explain how classical and operant conditioning and social learning principles can be used to change personality
11. Identify and explain the classic psychosocial, socio-cognitive, and cognitive constructs, theorists, and theories that lead to differences in personality and ways of thinking and behaving (i.e.,

schemas, attributions, culture and social cognition theories, Erikson, Ainsworth and strange situation tests, attachment styles, Bartholomew and Horowitz, etc.)
12. Identify and describe the classic constructs, theorists, and theories in the self-actualization and self-determination perspective (e.g. self-actualization, self-determination, Maslow, Rogers, conditions of self-worth, etc.)
13. Discuss the underlying principle of the self-determination and the self-actualization approach to personality
14. Apply each one of the major constructs and perspectives to analyzing the personality of a real-life subject
15. Identify ways of assessing each of the major constructs

Course Content

1. What is personality psychology?
2. Methods in the study of personality
3. Issues in personality assessment
4. The trait perspective
5. The motive perspective
6. Biological processes and personality
7. Movie screening: "Zelig"
8. Psychosocial theories
9. The learning perspective
10. The cognitive perspective

Course Assessment

CA1   Group presentation   : 20%
CA2   Midterm quizzes   : 20%
CA3   Online quizzes   : 10%
Final examination   : 50%
Total   --------
                                    100%

Reading and References

Perspectives on Personality, eBook Edition, 8/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier

Planned Weekly Schedule (subject to changes, if any)

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Topic 1: What is personality psychology?	1-3	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
2	Topic 2: Methods in the study of personality Tutorial session 1	4	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
3	Topic 3: Issues in personality assessment	4, 15	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
4	Topic 4: The trait perspective Tutorial session 2	5,6	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
5	Midterm Quiz 1	1-6	
6	Topic 5: The motive perspective Tutorial session 3	5,6	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
7	Topic 6: Psychosocial theories	11	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E

			Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
8	Topic 7: Biological processes and personality Tutorial session 4 (group presentations during the tutorial)	7,8,14	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
9	Topic 8: The learning perspective	9,10	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
10	Topic 9: Self-actualization and self-determination Tutorial session 5 (group presentations during the tutorial)	12,13, 14	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
11	Midterm quiz 2	5-13	
12	Topic 10: The cognitive perspective Tutorial session 6 (group presentations during the tutorial)	11, 14	*Perspectives on Personality*, Pearson New International Edition, 7/E Charles S. Carver & Michael F. Scheier
13	End of semester review of material	1-14	End of semester review of material