Personality, identity and self-presentation

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Prerequisite / Co-requisite:
None

Course Description

Personality, identity and self-presentation are one of the most important psychological concepts in the contemporary world being in constant change. What do they mean? In which contexts of everyday life do we use them? What social factors have an influence on individual experiences of one’s own personality, identity and self-presentation?

The course explores the modern view of the personality as a process, which involves both conscious and unconscious phenomena. Among these personality phenomena we are likely to meet all psychological spheres, that is: the sphere of cognition, emotion, motivation and behavior. In the cognitive sphere there is learning of certain behaviors, copying behaviors from others and creating one’s own behavioral scenarios. Among emotional sphere we have emotions elicited by current situation, as well as emotions linked to the genetic traits of personality. In motivational sphere there are tendencies to certain behaviors, produced by the person’s needs, energetic resources and possibilities. Among behavioral sphere, these different tendencies take effect, leading to various outcomes and, in addition, affecting personality in return.
The course introduce the eclectic view of variety personality theories, as well as related conceptions of the self, self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-presentation. Among the goals of the course, there is also the debate about the relation between these concepts and the term of identity. We also propose the discussion of identity among different generations and different values. Moreover, the course explores the issue to what degree the person is able to change all these mentioned psychological phenomena of her or his own.

We propose that American, Polish and European Erasmus students could record videos about each other self-presentation. While analyzing these videos, we will be able to discover various personality and identity mechanisms. We will also have an opportunity to emphasize the basic cultural differences.

Furthermore, the analyze of such videos will enable us to gather the knowledge of self-presentation and image management. We will characterize the main self-presentation strategies implemented in social life. The students will be introduced to psychological mechanisms that take part in the process of creating and managing one's image in social relations. Thus, among the course objectives there is also acquiring the ability to recognize and manage one's own, as well as other people's, self-presentation.

During this seminar we want to offer a debate between American, Polish and European Erasmus students. In our seminar we are going to use active methods such as: dialogue, psychodrama, writing scenarios, and interview. We propose reflection and active research.

**Learning outcomes:**
Over the course of study participants will:

- learn about different views of personality in psychology: cognitive view, psychodynamic view, humanistic theory of personality, behavioral proposition and the view of personality as a set of traits
- gain the competence to analyze the personality phenomena using various theories together in eclectic approach
- acquire the ability to name and analyze different psychological spheres playing roles among personality: the sphere of cognition, emotion, motivation and behavior
- gain understanding of the phenomena of self, self-knowledge and self-esteem
- acquire the competence to analyze different personal identities with their different values and different forms (private and social identity)
COURSE SYLLABUS

- gain deep and systematic knowledge in the field of self-presentation, various strategies for public appearances and effects of applied self-presentational behaviors
- acquire the ability to effectively use selected techniques and strategies for performing in various circumstances.
- learn about the effects of self-presentation on the personality and identity
- gain understanding of the significance of motivation behind people's self-presentation behaviors.

Requirements:

1. You are required to read the assigned materials and actively participate in class discussions. You are also recommended to read, if possible, additional non-obligatory material.

2. You are required to take a part in the experiment about self-presentation. Students, who volunteer, will record short video about self-presentation. All persons in the group will participate in interpreting the videos.

3. You are required to submit 1 short essay at various stages of the course.

4. You are required to prepare a group presentation on the topic related to the course theme.

Grading:

1. Engaging in the film experiment – 30%
2. Group presentation – 30%
3. Active participation in class discussions – 30%
4. Short essays – 10%
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course schedule:

1. The process approach to the personality, identity and self-presentation. Introducing the experiment with recording films about self-presentation. – 2h


Chapter 8: Personality: Vive La Difference!


2. Film analysis: cross-cultural context of defining the matters of personality, identity and self-presentation. – 2h


3. Cognitive approach to personality: to what extent we create and learn our personality? – 2h


Chapter 4: Learning: How Experience Changes Us

4. Psychodynamic view: is personality located mainly in unconscious psychological sphere? – 2h


Chapter 3. Psychoanalytic approaches to personality


5. Humanistic theory of personality and self-development. The human strengths. – 2h


6. Behavioral proposition of personality as an effect of environmental interactions. – 2h


7. The personality viewed as a set of traits. – 2h


Chapter 10. NEO Personality Inventory-Revised.

8. Discussion about the matter: to what extent personality can be genetic? – 2h


9. The interaction of emotional and personality spheres. – 2h


10. Emotional intelligence: can we develop efficient use of emotion in daily basics? – 2h


11. Motivation and personality. – 2h


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12. Cognitive process and cognitive intelligence among personality. – 2h


13. Personality as a process of interaction between different psychological spheres. – 2h


14. The methodology of research on personality and related spheres. – 2h


Chapter 2. The personality assessment process.

15. Self-knowledge and self-esteem – how do they differ? – 2h


16. Identity and values among different generations. – 2h


Chapter 9: Psychology Over the Life Span: Growing Up, Growing Older, Growing Wiser

17. Self-presentation: the characteristics of the phenomenon. – 2h


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18. **Mechanisms of the internalization of self-presentation.** – 2h


19. **The moral and competence-related interpretation of behavior.** – 2h


20. **The potential of creating and managing one’s own self-presentation, identity and personality.** – 2h


**Bibliography:**

**Required readings:**


COURSE SYLLABUS


Recommended readings:


