

PSY 321 The Psychology Of Identity
Fall 2009

GENERAL:

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: 5-107

Course website: <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy321.htm>

Office Hours: Thurs 12:00 - 3:00 5:00 - 6:00

Office: 24E-1211A (In a modular, south of the school Recital Hall) Office Phone 909-869-2281
(If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes ***Do not leave a message on campus voice mail:*** If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556

E-Mail Address: brjohnson@csupomona.edu

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An intensive examination of self in terms of theory, locus, development outcomes, sex identity, group identity, and the self in relation to others, extensive in-class practice in techniques for self-awareness, self-evaluation, self disclosure, self-assertion. 4 lecture/problem-solving. Prerequisites: PSY201 or 203 and upper division standing or permission of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To increase your understanding of:

- A. Important psychological theories related to identity and the concept of self.
- B. Social, developmental, and neurological considerations of identity and the “self”
- C. The influence of culture on a person’s identity and perception of self.
- D. The role of the personal concept of “self” in influencing a person’s expectations, reactions to their environment (especially other people in their environment) and behavior

TEXTS:

Johnson, Brian R. *Getting Unstuck: A Guide For Breaking Out Of Self-Defeating Patterns*

Johnson, Brian R. *Readings in The Psychology Of Identity.*

EXAMS: Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given (**Oct 19, Nov 9, and Dec 7**) that will consist of multiple choice and brief essay questions. Each **Mid-Term** test and the **Final** are worth 70 points each. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities, including the films that will be used to illustrate and expand theories, concepts, and ideas covered in the reading and lectures. ***Unless you and the instructor, prior to the exam, have made arrangements to take a test on a different date or you can document reasonable cause for failing to sit for a test, there will be no make up opportunities!***

QUIZZES: During the quarter there will be six, open note quizzes. You will receive 5 points for each quiz that you take for a potential total of 30 points. Quizzes will normally be given at

the end of class. You will be asked to briefly answer a question addressing a topic lectured on that day. Since quizzes will be scheduled randomly it is important that you attend all classes. If you miss a class at which a quiz was given, you will only be allowed to do a make up if you document reasonable cause for not being in class on the day of the quiz.

PAPER: A term paper is due the last day of lectures **at the beginning of class, Dec 2.** For the paper, watch one of the following films (they are available through Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, and most large video rental stores) and follow the protagonist listed with the movie.

Write a four to five page (typed, double spaced) essay about the protagonist using the concepts and theories that you have learned in this class to answer the following questions:

- (1) What do you see as the person's self concept? (In other words what does the protagonist's behavior and words say about the question, "Who am I?") Is there a difference between what you perceive is the protagonist's self concept and who you think the person really is?
- (2) Explore the major choices he or she makes in the film. What do these say about the person's identity and sense of self?
- (3) Given his or her self concept, explore the relationships with other key characters, especially the antagonist (i.e., the person who in some way gets in the way of the protagonist realizing whatever it is (s)he is trying to do).
- (4) What does the outcome (ending) says about the person's sense of self? Can you identify any changes that may have been realized in his or her identity or sense of who the person is?.

Use specific theories and or research to support your answers. See the class web site for more instructions, examples and a sample Term Paper.

Do not write a plot summary: I know these films--- believe me, I know these films---, so I don't need to be told the story. Instead you can describe certain instants (i.e., scenes) and the protagonist's behavior, words, or reactions in the movie to illustrate your points.

Movie	Protagonist
Smoke Signals	Victor
City of God***	Buscapé "Rocket"
Capote	Truman Capote
Down In The Delta	Loretta
Maria Full of Grace*	Maria
The Girl With A Pearl Earring	Griet
Doubt	Sister Aloysius Beauvier
Shall We Dance?***	Sugiyamas
Mansfield Park	Fanny
The Secret Life of Bees	Lily
Rabbit Proof Fence	Molly
Dirty Pretty Things	Okwe
The Mighty	Max
The Emperor's New Clothes	Napoleon Bonaparte
Miss Potter	Beatrix Potter
The Station Agent	Fin McBride
Atonement	Briony

*In Spanish with English Subtitles

In Japanese with English Subtitles *Brazilian Portuguese with English Subtitles

The term paper is worth 100 points and will be graded on a demonstrated understanding of the theory(ies) and/or psychological concepts you discuss and a clear application of that theory/concepts to your discussion of the protagonist. This is an upper division class, and the paper is expected to reflect an appropriate level of grammatical and compositional mastery. The grade for this paper can be affected negatively by poor writing craftsmanship. **Turning in the term paper after the due date and time (Dec 2) will result in a 25% penalty; a late paper MUST be faxed or e-mailed to me by midnight Dec 7 to be graded.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION: The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. **Participation will have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a philosopher and Senator! **40 participation points are possible.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., do not raise questions about or make comments concerning the materials presented in class, or offer a point of view concerning identity/self issues), the maximum number of points you will receive is 10. It is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an upper division course, and it would be appropriate to have each student assigned to do a formal presentation. This will not be required, so I will be attentive to and making notes of students’ participation during the lectures and the Breaking Away exercise. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

NAME PLATE: I want to know you by your name (not Bronco number). Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate (First name, Last name initial) to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are. I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn’t go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name (or call you by the wrong name), correct me.

COURSE WEBSITE (www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy321.htm): The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes (but not often) that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

FURLOUGH DAYS: Sept 25 (Fri), Oct 9 (Fri), Oct 30 (Fri), Nov 13 (Fri), Nov 25 (Wed), and Dec 9 (Wed). I will not be on campus or responding to e-mails on these days.

EXTRA CREDIT: If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra credit point. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Sona system. You must do this by going on line (<http://csupomona.sona-systems.com>) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the “New Participant Request an Account” link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the “Sign up for experiments” link. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the Sona web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given. The department’s report of student participation in experiments (and that report’s summary of students’ assignment of credits to classes) will be the sole basis for determining earned extra credit.**

READING ASSIGNMENTS: The attached schedule lists the readings for each lecture. To better follow the lectures and to gain mastery of the subject of this course, it is **strongly** encourage that you complete the reading assignments *before* the lectures.

GRADING: To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams and the papers). If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of “F.” Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

380-353	A	314-304	B-	265-255	D+
352-342	A-	303-293	C+	254-239	D
341-331	B+	292-277	C	238-228	D-
330-315	B	276--266	C-	<227	F

Grades will be posted on the class web site after the final exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The school’s policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, “All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents].” See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another’s work as your own. **Students often don’t realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material or (2) do not identify the source of an idea they are summarizing in their own words.**