Syllabus

PSY 3490: Personality Disorders in Adults and Older Adults
Daniel L. Segal, Ph.D.
Last revised: 1/1/2016

*This course is available on an ongoing basis every Spring, Summer and Fall semester at UCCS*

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an in-depth approach to the understanding of personality disorders in adults with special emphasis on these interesting disorders in later life. Topics to be addressed include historical considerations of personality disorders, clinical presentations, diagnostic challenges, epidemiology, patterns of comorbidity, theoretical models, assessment strategies, and intervention models. The manifestations of personality disorders in the context of later life and special diagnostic and assessment issues among older adults are emphasized.

Instructor and Contact Information:

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Instructor’s Biography:

Daniel L. Segal, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in clinical psychology. He received his B.S in psychology from Tulane University in 1987, his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami in 1992, and he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical geropsychology at Nova Southeastern University. He joined the Psychology Department at UCCS in 1995. At UCCS, he served as the founding director of the UCCS Aging Center, which is the Psychology Department’s training clinic in professional geropsychology. He trains practicum students at the Aging Center and maintains a small private practice focusing on psychotherapy with older adults. His research interests include diagnostic and assessment issues in clinical psychology, suicide prevention and aging, and personality disorders across the lifespan. He has published over 150 journal articles and book chapters on these topics. He has published two non-edited professional books. The first book (with co-authors Frederick Coolidge and Erlene Rosowsky) titled Personality Disorders and Older Adults: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment was published in 2006, and the second book (with co-authors Sara Qualls and
Mick Smyer) titled *Aging and Mental Health* (2nd edition) was published in 2011. He has edited two volumes in major reference works: one volume focused on personality assessment (in the *Comprehensive Handbook of Psychological Assessment* [2004]) and the other examined personality and everyday functioning (in the *Comprehensive Handbook of Personality and Psychopathology* [2006]). He is Editor-in-Chief of *Clinical Case Studies*, Associate Editor for *Assessment*, and he serves on the Editorial Board of *Behavior Modification*. He is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and of the American Psychological Association (Division 20, Adult Development and Aging). At UCCS, he has received the Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences in 2002, the Outstanding Teaching Award for the UCCS campus in 2006, and the Outstanding Research Award for the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences in 2010. Dr. Segal enthusiastically welcomes you to this correspondence course!

**Note about Blackboard:**

Please note that I do not use Blackboard for any purpose for this class. All communication is done via email.

**Required Text:**


The text is available from the publisher (John Wiley & Sons) by either calling the publisher at 1-877-762-2974 or by visiting their website at the following link:


The text is also available from Amazon.com.

There are no other required readings.

**How to Proceed with the Course:**

Read the course requirements listed below. After you register (online), notify me via email (dsegal@uccs.edu) so that I know you are registered. Next, read the assigned textbook with these course requirements clearly in mind. Please contact me if you are unsure about the course requirements and I will gladly assist you.

**Course Requirements, Grading, and Time Limit:**

There is one required written assignment (see below). You submit the paper to me via email. There are no meetings for this class although if you want to visit me, we can easily set an appointment at my office. Your course grade will depend on how clearly you have expressed your ideas in your paper, how well you have understood the concepts in the textbook (as
expressed in your paper), and the extent to which your paper is clear, thoughtful, and grammatically correct.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must submit your paper two me NO LATER than 2 weeks before the official end of the semester. As such, you must begin working on this class well before the semester is nearing its end. I will grade your paper within 1 week of receiving it via email. At the conclusion of the semester, I will officially post your grade in the UCCS system. You can retrieve your final grade in your student portal.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TEXTBOOK

I. Read the text “Personality disorders and older adults: Diagnosis, assessment, and treatment” and provide a critical analysis of the book.
   (A) The paper (including title page and analysis) should be a minimum of 1600 words. Please do not exceed 2000 words. Please provide the word count at the end of your paper. Please make sure to meet the minimum paper length as short papers will be returned to you without grading. The entire paper should be DOUBLE SPACED.

II. Title Page Requirements: Include: Title of your paper, Your name, Date, and Course name (Personality Disorders in Adults and Older Adults).

III. How to complete the Book Analysis
   (A) First, read the book in its entirety and provide a brief summary of the book. Please do not use more than a paragraph or two for the summary as I prefer you focus on analysis and not summary.
   (B) Next, describe and discuss the major cross-cutting themes or points of emphasis of the book. This analysis of themes can be a major part of your paper.
   (C) Next, critique the book by answering the following questions: What did you think about the book? What are the strengths of the book? What are the weaknesses of the book? Describe how the book adds to your understanding of the diagnostic process used by mental health professionals. What was the most significant or meaningful understanding that you got from reading the book? Describe why it was significant or meaningful.
   (D) You must write each and every word of this paper by yourself. I want to learn what YOU think about the topics. Therefore, information from any sources besides your assigned textbook is unnecessary.

IV. Paper Requirements
   (A) I prefer that you send me your paper via email (dsegal@uccs.edu). If email is not possible, you may send me a hard copy via the mail. The hard copy must be computer printed. Handwritten papers are not acceptable.
   (B) Number your pages and double-space your entire document.
   (C) Use a 12 point font (preferably Times New Roman).
   (D) Use 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right).
(E) References are neither needed nor required.

(F) Check your spelling and proofread the document carefully. Typos detract from the quality of your paper and will lower the grade you receive.

(G) Submit your paper to me (email or hard copy) once it is checked and proofed by the DEADLINE stated above.

Final Comment from Dr. Segal: I wish you the best of luck and success in this correspondence course and I hope you find it a valuable and enriching experience. Feel free to contact me at any time to clarify assignments or to discuss the material. I will do my best to help you succeed.