Comparative Theories of Personality and Psychotherapy

1. Course Designation and Identifier

1.1 Adler Graduate School
1.2 Course number 513- Online
1.3 Comparative Theories of Personality and Psychotherapy
1.4 Three (3) credits
1.5 Prerequisite: 511, 711 or 712

2. Course Description

This course provides an overview of the key theories of personality from the 20th and 21st centuries and the accompanying systems of counseling and psychotherapy that evolved to help individuals and families heal and change.

This overview will stimulate further study of preferred theoretical perspectives and promote integration with Adlerian theory. This integrative goal suggests that clinical interventions can be optimized if Adler’s Individual Psychology is complemented by compatible schools of thought and the techniques and strategies informed by these additional perspectives. Opportunities to make comparative analyses of theories will be provided, but it is acknowledged that true mastery or competency in application will require additional study and applied experience.

A major purpose of this course is the development of your own “good theory,” a personal theoretical perspective which is consistent with your own worldview and counseling style. Because it is unprofessional to pursue clinical challenges from a purely intuitive posture, we must make use of the technical skills which a scientific study of psychology can produce.

3. Texts, Materials and Resources (required and optional)

3.1 Required texts:

   *Theory and practice of counseling and psychotherapy 9th edition.*
4. **Competencies and Learning Outcomes**

Students in this course learn:

4.1 The major theories and theorists that are central to the counseling profession (1a);

4.2 The key concepts of each theory (1a);

4.3 The key concepts of Adlerian theory as well as some comparison with other major theories (10a, 10d);

4.4 Theories of human nature and psychotherapeutic beliefs about change (3c, 3d);

4.5 Therapeutic goals of major counseling theories (1a);

4.6 The role of the relationship between the helper and client (5b, 5c);

4.7 Counseling theory as it is related to the selection of appropriate counseling skills and techniques (5b, 5c, 5f, 9c);

4.8 The key concepts of theories related to multicultural settings (2e);

4.9 The contemporary and research influences on counseling and psychotherapy (8a, 8e);

4.10 The integration of theoretical and experiential learning in order to form a personal model of the counseling process (5c);

4.11 The analysis of qualities that either support or hinder attempts at being therapeutic with others (1g).

5. **AGS Online Course Overview**

5.1 AGS on-line courses have the same total duration as residential courses – 7 weeks (5 weeks of coursework plus two weeks for completing final assignments). You should expect to spend approximately 120 hours on all course-related activities. Your instructor
will be actively available for all class activities and individual consultations for the duration of the coursework and as needed until final grades are submitted.

5.2 Your course instructor will respond to your questions or comments within 48 hours (barring unforeseen circumstances). You will be expected to observe the same response time--relying within 48 hours. During the class, your instructor may post specific office hours on your class webpage.

5.3 Please stay current in the class. Generally, you will be expected to complete reading assignments, submit at least two substantive postings per week (in response to the questions and/or tasks by your instructor), and – in some cases - engage in experiential activities, per syllabus. These expectations are very general, as you will find unique teaching styles and specific expectations presented in each on-line class.

5.4 Although you will likely find that you have a lot of experience in the discussed topics, please remember that the most convincing position is the one supported by the most current and relevant research. You will find these sources in peer-reviewed journals. Use APA style and format requirements in referencing sources.

6. **Course Outline**

* All assignments are due by 11:59 pm CST on the date listed*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Number</th>
<th>Unit Topic</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Knowledge, awareness, &amp;/or skills developed in each unit</th>
<th>Reading and other sources</th>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction to classmates and subject matter</td>
<td>Become aware of expectations of the class, provide an introduction to the counselor or psychotherapist role</td>
<td>Expectations of class presents an opportunity to plan ahead for requirements, gain basic knowledge on counseling and psychotherapy</td>
<td>Read welcome and guidelines posted on Moodle, syllabus, Corey: Chapter 2.</td>
<td>Posting and responses</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Adlerian therapy</td>
<td>Become aware of Adlerian therapy and basic components as related to counseling</td>
<td>Adlerian therapy, skills related to the capability to draw important points in the reading as well as</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 5</td>
<td>Posting, peer responses, theory outline, posting of group symposium preferences</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Psychoanalytic therapy and Erikson's psychosocial theory</td>
<td>Learn basic points about psychoanalytic theory as related to counseling and psychosocial ideas related to counseling</td>
<td>Synthesize information from reading sources and begin to identify one’s own role in the helping field</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 4</td>
<td>Posting, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Person-centered therapy</td>
<td>Learn basic approaches to the counseling field as related to person-centered theories</td>
<td>Observe the person-centered approach with Carl Rogers, integrate or not into your own approach</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 7, Moodle resource</td>
<td>Posting responses found in Moodle, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Behavior therapy</td>
<td>Learn the basic points of behavior therapy as related to the counseling profession</td>
<td>Integrate behavior ideas into your own personal identity of a professional helper with families of children</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 9</td>
<td>Posting, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
</tr>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavior therapy</td>
<td>Learn basic ideas related to cognitive behavioral theory as a counselor</td>
<td>Observe Albert Ellis in therapy sessions, integrate those ideas into your own personal identity of a professional helper</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 10, Moodle resource</td>
<td>Posting responses found in Moodle, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Reality therapy</td>
<td>Learn basic ideas related to reality therapy in a counseling viewpoint</td>
<td>Synthesize the ideas of reality therapy into own view of self in the profession of helping others,</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 11</td>
<td>Posting, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>compare with Adlerian ideas</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Solution-focused brief therapy</td>
<td>Learn basic ideas of solution-focused brief therapy as related to the counseling field</td>
<td>Synthesize ideas, integrate into your own professional identity</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 13</td>
<td>Posting, peer responses, and theory outline</td>
</tr>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Integrative perspective</td>
<td>Learn of basic ideas of placing the ideas of this class into an integrative perspective</td>
<td>Identification of your own personal identity as a counselor and how you will integrate the ideas from this class</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 15</td>
<td>Corey: Chapter 16</td>
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**Week 1**

7.1 **Unit 1** Introduction to Course

1) Download and review Welcome and Guidelines for Online 513 from Moodle

2) Complete “Introduce Yourself” posting on Moodle

3) Reply to the “Introduce Yourself” posting of 2 other classmates

4) Read Corey: Chapter 2

7.2 **Unit 2** Adlerian Therapy
Corey: Chapter 5

Also post Group Symposium preferences on Moodle

**Week 2**

7.3 **Unit 3** Psychoanalytic Therapy
Corey: Chapter 4

7.4 **Unit 4** Person-Centered Therapy
Corey: Chapter 7

**Week 3**

7.5 **Unit 5** Behavior Therapy
Corey: Chapter 9
7.6  **Unit 6**  Cognitive Behavior Therapy  
     Corey:  Chapter 10 

**Week 4**

7.7  **Unit 7**  Reality Therapy  
     Corey:  Chapter 11 

7.8  **Unit 8**  Solution- Focused Brief Therapy  
     Corey:  Chapter 13 (pp. 400-410) 

**Week 5**

7.9  **Unit 9**  An Integrative Perspective  
     Corey:  Chapter 15  
     Chapter 16 

**Special Project Time (due last week of class)**

*Online Symposium Project*  
*Groups of 3-4 students will be assigned to each theory*  

Feminist Therapy  
Corey:  Chapter 12  

Narrative Therapy  
Corey:  Chapter 13 (pp. 410-419)  

Existential Therapy  
Corey:  Chapter 6  

Group Project team evaluations  

Review other projects and post responses  

**Final Assignment (due two weeks after last class time)**

*Philosophy of Helping paper*

7.  **Assessment/Evaluation Procedures**  
(Detailed descriptions of these assignments are available on Moodle)

7.1 Assignment Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points per</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Activities</td>
<td>4 pts- Intro posting</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pts ea for 2 replies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theory outlines | 1 point per outline for 7 units | 7
Original Forum Posting | 4 points per unit after first unit (8) | 32
Responses to 2 other postings | 1 point per response, 2 responses per unit after first unit (8) | 16
SPT - Online Group Symposium | | 15
Review of 2 other Symposium Projects | 5 points per review | 2
SPT Evaluate team members | | 
Philosophy of Helping paper | | 20

Total of 100 points

7.2 Grading:

- **A**: 90-100 percent of total possible point value
- **B**: 80-89 percent of total possible point value
- **C**: 70-79 percent of total possible point value
- **R**: Retake - Needs more time or instruction to master the requirements of the class
- **NC**: Quality of work or participation falls below minimum expectations, including:
  - Not attending class.
  - Not properly notifying registrar of a withdrawal
  - Missing class periods in excess of the number allowed by AGS’s course attendance policy (see section 9 below)
  - Not resolving a grade of incomplete within 45 days after the last class meeting (not the assignment due date) and an agreed upon extension has not been arranged by the student and instructor. The Incomplete turns to No Credit (NC) and the course must be repeated at full price.

7.3 Original Forum Posting Submissions

Original posts are graded on a scale of 0-4 points. You can earn a maximum of 40 points for this required activity, after the introduction unit. Responses posted after the deadline will have two points deducted for every late post. Your original forum postings need to be written in APA format and citations and references need to be included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Comments 1) are accurate and relevant; 2) demonstrate original thinking; 3) use appropriate scholarly support; 4) are well written, with no significant grammar and punctuation errors and no violation of “netiquette”. Four point comments contribute substantially to the course discussions and stimulate additional thought and further discussions about the topic discussed in the particular unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Above</td>
<td>Comments lack at least one of the above qualities, but are...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Average above average overall, with regard to their content, and make a good contribution to our understanding of the issue being discussed.

2 Average Comments lack two or three of the above qualities. Comments which are based upon personal opinion but not supported by scholarly research or personal experience and/or comments violating important netiquette rules often fall within this category.

1 Minimal Comments present little or no new information, lack three or more of the above qualities. However, one point comments may provide important social presence and contribute to a collegial atmosphere.

0 Unacceptable The comment lacks all four qualities or in violation of AGS academic integrity policy

7.4 Peer Responses

Peer responses can earn 1.0 point for each peer response (with the total of 2 points per unit after the introduction unit, and 16 points for the course). Peer responses are graded on accuracy, relevance, presence of scholarly support, and delivery (including compliance with major grammar and punctuation rules and netiquette). Peer responses posted after the deadline will not be graded.

In these responses, you will a) bring another aspect to the discussion, add a new insight to already offered ideas; b) find additional scholarly support for your classmate’s position and demonstrate that you have done some good additional reading on the issue; c) reply to a group of your classmates by comparing or contrasting their stated positions, or probing, offering a counter-thought; and/or d) integrate your classmates’ observations into your original position (whether supportive or not).

In meeting at least one of the above (a-d) requirements, a good peer response will bring the discussion to an advanced level and will parallel what you might observe in a live scholarly debate. While offering a good challenge in your peer responses, please don’t forget that validation and respect are two integral rules in any scholarly conversation.

7.5 There will be theory outlines required for each unit from 2 through 8. There will be specific questions that are to be answered that can be found on the Moodle coursepage. These outlines will be due the same evening as the peer responses. The outlines are an excellent way to formulate your thoughts with regards to each theory and will be of assistance as you organize information for the Philosophy of Helping final paper.

7.6 SPT Description, timeline (deadline), and assessment

There will be an online group symposium project regarding additional therapies that are presented in the Corey text, but will not be discussed in the general forums and units. There will be 3-4 members per group. You are required to post a group project which consists of a powerpoint presentation that will provide an overview of the assigned additional therapy. Those therapies might include:
Feminist Therapy, Chapter 12 of Corey
Narrative Therapy, Chapter 13 of Corey
Existential Therapy, Chapter 6 of Corey

Those powerpoint presentation will be due during that last week of class on Friday as posted in the Moodle course page. In addition to this posting, you are required to post peer responses to each of the other groups which will be due on Saturday evening, and complete an evaluation form for your group members regarding the cooperation and sharing of work with each other that is also due on Saturday of that last week of classroom experience. That evaluation can also be found on Moodle. This will be an opportunity to experience social interest with your fellow classmates and learn technological ways to share the information that you will/present on additional theories. Those plans will be finalized as class begins and will be dependent on how many are enrolled in the class.

7.7 Final course assignment (s), timeline (deadline), and assessment
There will be a final paper due two weeks after the last class assignments titled, “Philosophy of Helping Paper”.

This will be a synthesis of the information that you have learned in the course and an integration into your own views of your future role in the helping profession. It will be a way for you to identify key concepts of other theories as well as Adlerian theory that you plan to use in your future work in the field of psychology. You will be required to identify your view of human nature as well as how you will address diversity in your work. There will be the opportunity for you to identify your strengths and limitations as well as key methods and techniques that you will use in your profession. An added section in the paper will involve reading a book of your choice related to comparative theories or complete an interview with two different professionals in the field. These details will also be found in the Moodle course room.

8. **On-Line Discussions or Activities**

On-line classes provide an opportunity for open and insightful dialogue. As in any dialogue, these discussions demonstrate many facets of diversity, including diversity of values, opinions, and experiences. We view these differences as welcomed and needed attributes of a scholarly discussion. Acknowledgement of and respect for these differences is a sign of mature scholarly debate.

Following are guidelines governing on-line discussions:

8.1 Faculty members monitor discussions and intervene when requested or deemed necessary.

8.2 NEVER post to the courseroom content:
  - That is known to be illegal,
  - That is potentially harassing, threatening, or embarrassing,
  - That might be offensive and might be received as disrespectful in any way.
  - That is vulgar or sexually explicit
8.3 The tone of the exchange is one of respect for individual differences. If you disagree with an opinion expressed by a classmate or instructor, respond in a scholarly manner, arguing about the subject of discussion vs. the person who posted it.

8.4 Students are encouraged to not overuse exclamation marks!!!!!!, CAPITAL LETTERS, or other marks of emotional reaction that may be received as yelling, etc.

8.5 On-line communication presents a significant level of ambiguity, as verbal content of communication is not well supported by its non-verbal (including contextual) components. If a student feels threatened or offended by a statement made by another student during on-line portion of a class, please address the issue immediately with the other student(s) to clarify their position and your reaction. If this does not work, contact your class instructor so actions can be taken if necessary.

8.6 During on-line discussion, follow the same rules concerning protection of confidential information as you would follow in face-to-face discussion. Confidential client information is not appropriate in forum postings. Further, mental health related issues pertaining to you or your family members must be used with caution, if at all.

8.7 Be aware that some agency-specific information, such as descriptions of programs that have been developed or specialized treatment approaches, may potentially be a subject of copyright law. Although it is not always possible to know whether information is protected, the minimum expectation is to always identify and credit the source of information.

8.8 If the expectations in professional communication or other expectations specific to unique nature of online scholarly activities are not met, the concerning issue will be addressed with involvement of Program Director (or Academic VP, if needed or determined by the PD as requiring higher level of intervention). A student or a faculty member may raise the issue.

8.9 Any off-list communication between student and faculty will be conducted through Moodle, or redirected to Moodle of a student starts it via conventional private e-mailing.

9. **Special Project Time (SPT)**

Special Project Time (SPT) allows students the opportunity to integrate course materials. SPT is meant to be a self-contained experience, requiring 30 hours to complete.

SPT experiences may be constructed in such a way that they pertain to students’ unique degree plans. For example, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist students, Licensed Professional Counselor students, and Licensed School Counselor students may construct a SPT experience unique to their chosen disciplines. This is done in consultation with the course instructor.

SPT specifics for this course are posted on Moodle and were also discussed above.

10. **Writing Guidelines including APA Format**

10.1 All written assignments in courses at the Adler Graduate School, including those submitted in on-line courses, must be in APA format unless specifically noted by the course instructor
10.2 Strict APA publication rules in Online Peer Discussions might prove difficult, if not impossible, to maintain. For instance, following the “letter” of the Manual (i.e., not using “I”, or passive voice, keeping proper margins, or complying with headings requirements) may be either difficult or counterproductive in forums such as peer discussions. However, it is still important to adhere to the “spirit” of the APA Manual (i.e., grammar, orderly presentation of ideas, reducing bias in language, and presenting scholarly statements and arguments).

10.3 Prior to submitting a response, please proofread carefully. Grammar and spelling errors may make your response difficult for other students to appreciate.

10.4 Please keep in mind that, while the internet offers a lot of exciting and up-to-date information, not all internet sources are considered scholarly. For example, Wikipedia is not an academically peer-reviewed source. Rather, it is an “anybody-reviewed” source and, therefore, can’t be used in presenting your argument in AGS classes-related tasks.

11. Attendance and Participation Policy

11.1 At the beginning of each course, please complete or update your student profile on Moodle and get familiar with your classmates and the instructor by visiting their profile information.

11.2 You are expected to attend all the course learning activities. In the AGS asynchronous on-line courses, you attend the class by complying with posting and other submission deadlines.

11.3 In most of the courses, you will have two deadlines per week during the five weeks of coursework. For each week, and in conjunction with on-line instruction and other learning activities, your course instructor will announce two discussion questions or topics corresponding with two of the units in the course outline. The questions will appear in Moodle each Monday morning at least two weeks in advance for the five weeks of coursework. You will then have until Tuesday night (11:59 PM CST) for the first question and Friday night (11:59 PM CST) for the second question to submit your original response.

11.4 Your original response will be at least 350 words, with at least one scholarly reference. Through discussions supported by in-text citations and other references, your response will reflect critical thought related to the topic and specific assignments for that unit.

11.5 Typically, you will then have until Wednesday night (11:59 PM CST) and Saturday night (11:59 PM CST) to respond to at least two of your classmates’ postings for each question (four responses per week). You will see occasional variations from that common practice, depending on specific needs in your classes. Your course instructor will provide you with more specific information.
11.6 You can post your peer responses at any time between Monday and Wednesday (for discussion topic One) and between Friday and Saturday night (for discussion topic Two), but not before you post your original response. Your course instructor will acknowledge your participation and will grade the quality of it by responding to your original posting, whether individually or in a summary format. Also, most of the forums are in a question and answer format, which means that you will not be able to see the postings of peers until you have posted your own original discussion posting.

11.7 It is the AGS attendance policy that students have to attend at least 80% of the class sessions in order to be eligible for a letter grade. Online attendance is posting on time. Not complying with posting deadlines or not posting at all will be counted as a missed class.

12. Participation Disclaimer

Active participation in class discussions/exercises/demonstrations is encouraged.

As with other AGS courses, in this course, individual students must determine for themselves the level of personal disclosure/intimacy that is appropriate for them.

Faculty members and students do not disclose confidential, personally identifiable information concerning their clients, students, research participants, organizational clients, or other recipients of their services.

Whenever confidential information/material is used in any AGS course, students and faculty members are expected to observe AGS policy concerning the handling of confidential information/material. Full description of these policies are readily available on the Moodle main page.

13. Academic Integrity Policy

Honesty and trust among students and between students and faculty are essential for a strong, functioning academic community. Consequently, students are expected to do their own work on all academic assignments, tests, projects, and research/term papers. Academic dishonesty, whether cheating, plagiarism, or some other form of dishonest conduct may result in failure for the work involved. Academic dishonesty could also result in failure for the course and, in the event of a second incident of academic dishonesty, suspension from the Adler Graduate School. Here are examples of academic dishonesty:

- **Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit.

- **Fabrication** - Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

- **Facilitating academic dishonesty** - Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of academic integrity.

- **Plagiarism** - The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of
another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

14. **Nondiscrimination Clause**

The Adler Graduate School is an equal opportunity educator and employer. The Adler Graduate School does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or physical disability in the employment of faculty or staff, the admission or treatment of students, or in the operation of its educational programs and activities. The institution is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities in accordance with all applicable State and federal laws.

15. **Learning Accommodations (including students with disabilities)**

If a student in this course has a documented learning disability, tell the instructor during the first week of class. The instructor needs to know on the front end so that he or she can work with you. The Adler Graduate School is committed to helping all students be successful, as best as can be reasonably accommodated. Documenting a learning disability occurs at the student’s expense. When documented appropriately, the Adler Graduate School makes all reasonable accommodations.

16. **Instructor Contact Information**

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