

PSY 3700-01: Personality Theory
CRN: 22952
Spring, 2011
Meeting in McDonald 104
10:30 – 11:45 TR

Contact Information:

PROFESSOR: John T. Jones, Ph.D.
OFFICE: McDonald 220
OFFICE HOURS: 11:00 – 12:00 Monday and Wednesday; 12:00 – 1:00 Tuesday, 12:00 – 2:00 Thursday
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TEXT: Burger, J. M. (2008). *Personality*. (7th ed.) Belmont, CA: Thomson.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS: Posted to Blackboard.

I. Purpose of the Course

This course will provide you with an introduction to Personality Theory – including many of the major psychological approaches to answering the following questions: What is a person? What does it mean to know a person? How do people become who they are? Can personality change or does it solidify and become immune to influence? To what extent is personality responsible for behavior? The pre-requisite for this course is Psychology 1010. This is a 3 cr. course.

II. Course Objectives

- To engage in a comprehensive review of major theories, research methods, and assessment instruments used in personality psychology.
- To understand the applicability of personality theory in research, and in real life.
- To understand how to critique ideas presented by personality theorists.
- To strengthen skills in critical thinking regarding assessment of subjective areas of human psychology.

III. Learning Outcomes

- Describe major and emerging theories of personality by achieving passing scores on criterion referenced quizzes.
- Explain personality theories as they relate to assessment methods through classroom discourse and performance on criterion referenced quizzes.
- Conduct analyses of personality according to major theories and present findings in written format and through classroom discourse.
- Understand and describe the differences between major theoretical approaches to personality in classroom discourse, classroom assignments, and on the final exam.

III. Class Policies

A. Behave honorably. That's important to me and (I'm sure) to you. That means that I expect that you do not cheat and that you bring to my attention your knowledge of cheating that others might do. Remember that cheating involves both getting help and giving help on evaluated tasks that are supposed to be done independently (e.g., tests, quizzes, written projects).

B. Turn off all electronic equipment before entering the classroom (laptops may be used to take notes only). After the first 2 weeks of class, if I see you using unauthorized electronic devices of any kind at any time in the classroom (or using a laptop for anything other than taking notes), I will deduct 5% of your total course points for each offense.

C. Arrive on time and no competitive talking.

D. Avoid leaving lecture early. Not only is this distracting to your fellow students, it's distracting to me. I do understand that occasionally people must miss part of a class. **If you intend to do so, please let me know and then sit near the door if possible**, so you can slip out without distracting everyone.

E. If you have questions, please ask. You may try to see me after class, but don't get frustrated if there is not time. Best: come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment with me. You are my priority at DSC. We can find a time that works for both of us.

F. Notes. I will not post notes or slides to Blackboard. You will learn more if I don't.

IV. Exam Information and Policy

A. YOU MUST DROP ONE of the five regular exams. If you must take the final, you **cannot drop it**.

B. On the five exams, there will be no make-ups or early exams. *If you cannot take the exam at the time it is offered, you receive a zero.* Presumably you will drop that grade. If you miss a second exam and have a legitimate excuse (legitimate means that you face dire circumstances like serious documented injury/illness) contact me and we will arrange for a make-up. The make-up will be different from the exam taken by others in the course.

People have valid reasons for missing exams. Some of these reasons include illness, official university functions (like athletic teams, chorus trips, etc.), court dates, jury duty, sick relatives, surprise work obligations, and many others. However, I believe that (1) make-up exams are not fair to others who aren't allowed to take them, (2) you should not have to justify your absence at one of the exams, and (3) you shouldn't put me in the position of judging the validity of your excuse. Thus, I declare **all** excuses to be valid--for missing **one** exam.

C. Exams will only cover the material since the previous exam. Each exam will consist of questions regarding material from the book, lecture/discussion, and any supplemental readings. Exams will include both multiple choice and short answer questions.

D. Every exam will be given at the testing center and will be given electronically (computerized). All you need to take with you is a **picture ID**. If you do not bring your ID to the testing center, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Do not bring any other material (e.g., no books or papers). Testing Center - <http://new.dixie.edu/testing>

E. You will have a window of 4 days to go to the testing center to complete each exam (check the testing center website listed above for hours). Once you start the exam you will have 90 minutes to complete it.

F. If you have a question about your score on an exam, come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment with me. We can go over the exam to make sure it was scored correctly. You can also ask for clarification regarding exam questions. I offer this opportunity out of respect to you. Please return that courtesy in your challenges.

G. The Final Exam. The final exam is optional for anyone with a pre-final **EXAM** average of 90% or higher. If your pre-final quiz average is below 90%, you must take the final. It counts 100 points.

H. The final exam will be taken in class from **9:30-11:30 on Thursday May 5th** and it will be comprehensive.

V. Earning Points in the Course

A. Exams: Five exams taken at the testing center, each exam will assess your mastery of basic concepts and ideas corresponding to the major approaches to personality. Each exam is worth 50 points. You will drop your lowest exam score.

Total for Exams **200 pts.**

B. Case Studies: To demonstrate your mastery of the major theoretical approaches to understanding personality, you will complete four short case studies (2-3 pp. max). Each case study is worth 50 points. Case studies include a brief description of an individual, and a series of questions designed to foster an in-depth analysis and understanding of the individual's personality from a particular theoretical perspective. Instructions will be distributed with each case study. Late case studies (not turned in by 10:30 on the due date) will not be graded.

Total for Case Studies **200 pts.**

Final Exam: Taken in class from 9:30-11:30 Thursday May 5th. This may not be dropped unless you have a pre-final EXAM average of 90% or higher.

Total for Final Exam **100 pts.**

Summary of Points Possible:

Exams	200
Case Studies	200
Final Exam	100
Total	
	500 pts.

VI. Grading Policy

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	94% - 100%	C	74% - 76%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70% - 73%
B+	87% - 89%	D+	67% - 69%
B	84% - 86%	D	64% - 66%
B-	80% - 83%	D-	60% - 63%
C+	77% - 79%	F	59% AND BELOW

You can convert the points you have earned into a percentage by using the following formula.

$$\text{Points you earned} \div \text{Points possible} = \text{your percentage}$$

VII. Schedule for Course Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1/11	Introduction to Course	Syllabus, Ch. 1
1/13 and 1/18	Personality Research Methods	Ch. 2
Jan. 20 th – Feb. 1 st	PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH	Ch. 3 and 4
Quiz #1: Testing center Feb. 2nd – 5th (covers Ch. 1-4)		
Feb. 3 rd – Feb. 17 th	NEO-FREUDIAN APPROACH	Ch. 5 and 6
Quiz #2: Testing center Feb. 18th – 22nd (covers Ch. 5-6) Neo-Freudian Case Study Due Feb 22nd at 10:30 a.m.		
Feb. 22 nd – Mar. 8 th	TRAIT APPROACH	Ch. 7 and 8
Quiz #3: Testing center Mar. 8th – 11th (covers Ch. 7-8) Trait Case Study Due Mar. 10th at 10:30 a.m.		
March 10 th – March 31 st	BIOLOGICAL APPROACH	Ch. 9 and 10
Quiz #4: Testing center April 1st – 4th (covers Ch. 9-10) Biological Case Study Due Apr. 5th at 10:30 a.m.		
Apr. 5 th – April 21 st	HUMANISTIC APPROACH	Ch. 11 and 12
Quiz #5: Testing center Apr. 22nd – 25th (covers Ch. 11-12) Humanistic Case Study Due Apr. 26th at 10:30 a.m.		
April 26 th – April 28 th	CURRENT DIRECTIONS IN PERSONALITY RESEARCH	Supplements

FINAL EXAM**All Material**Thursday May 5th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in our regular classroom**STATEMENT ABOUT DMAIL**

Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. You will be responsible for checking and responding to email (in a reasonable amount of time) in your Dmail account.

DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading scale and missed test policy may be subject to change with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate to the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If you are a student with a medical, psychological or a learning difference and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to this disability, you must provide an official request of accommodation to your professor(s) from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) **within the first two weeks** of the beginning of classes. Students are to contact the center

on the main campus to follow through with, and receive assistance in the documentation process to determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability.

You may call **(435) 652-7516** for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The DRC is located in the **Student Services Center, Room #201 of the Edith Whitehead Building**.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Jan 12	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 25	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Jan 31	Graduation Application Deadline
Feb 1	Pell Grant Census
Feb 1	Last Day for Refund
Feb 1	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 2	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 4	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 21	President's Day
Mar 4	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Mar 14-18	Spring Break
Mar 21	Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Mar 22	Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Mar 23	Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Mar 24	Summer Registration open to all students
Apr 1	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 11	Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Apr 12	Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Apr 13	Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Apr 14	Fall Registration open to all students
Apr 28	Class-work Ends
Apr 29	Final Exams
May 2-5	Final Exams
May 6	Commencement