

PSY 3700: Personality Theory
CRN:22952
Spring, 2010
Meeting in McDonald 104
10:30 – 11:45 TR

Contact Information:

PROFESSOR: John T. Jones, Ph.D.
OFFICE: McDonald 220
OFFICE HOURS: 11:00 – 2:00 Mondays; 11:00 – 1:00 Wednesdays
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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. **Arrive on time.**

C. **Do not talk excessively during lecture (e.g. when I am talking).** I know this is tough, but this includes not talking during the last three minutes of lecture. Occasionally, people will start putting up their material and talking as we near the end of lecture. Don't be that person.

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 post the slides to Blackboard unless attendance suffers, and then I won't.

G. **Grade checks.** If you need me to verify your grade for athletic/scholarship/financial aid purposes etc....you must either come see me during office hours or make an appointment.

IV. Quiz Policy

A. YOU MUST DROP ONE of the six quizzes. **You cannot drop the Final Exam.**

B. **On the six quizzes, there will UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES be make-ups or early quizzes.** *If you cannot take the quiz at the time it is offered, you receive a zero.* Presumably you will drop that grade. If you miss a second quiz 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 quiz taken by others in the course.

People have valid reasons for missing quizzes. 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 quizzes 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 quizzes, 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 quiz.

C. Quizzes will only cover the material since the previous quiz. Each quiz will consist of questions regarding material from the book, lecture/discussion, and any supplemental readings.

D. **The Final Exam.** The final exam is optional for anyone with a pre-final average of 90% or higher. If your pre-final average is below 90%, you must take the final. It counts 200 points.

E. The final exam will be taken in class and it will be comprehensive.

F. If you have a question about your score on a quiz, 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.

V. Earning Points in the Course

A. Quizzes: Taken in class, each quiz will objectively assess your mastery of basic concepts and ideas corresponding to the major approaches to personality.

Total for Quizzes **250 pts.**

B. Case Studies: To demonstrate your mastery of the major theoretical approaches to understanding personality, you will complete **three of six** short case studies. 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. Detailed 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 **300 pts.**

C. Final Exam: Taken in class date and time TBA. This may not be dropped unless your quiz average is 90% or higher. Format TBA.

Total for Final Exam **150 pts.**

Summary of Points Possible:

Quizzes	250
Case Studies	300
Final Exam	150
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Total	700

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.

Points you earned ÷ Points possible = your percentage

VII. Schedule for Course Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1/12	Introduction to Course	Syllabus, Ch. 1
1/14 and 1/19	Personality Research Methods	Ch. 2
Jan. 21st – Feb. 2nd	PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH	Ch. 3 and 4
Quiz #1: Testing center Feb. 3-4 (covers Ch. 1-4) Case Study #1 Due Feb. 4th at 10:30 a.m.		
Feb. 4th – Feb. 16th	NEO-FREUDIAN APPROACH	Ch. 5 and 6
Quiz #2: Testing center Feb. 17-18 (covers Ch. 5-6) Case Study #2 Due Feb 18th at 10:30 a.m.		
Feb. 18th – Mar. 4th	TRAIT APPROACH	Ch. 7 and 8
Quiz #3: Testing center Mar. 5th or 15th (covers Ch. 7-8) Case Study #3 Due Mar. 16th at 10:30 a.m.		
March 16th – March 30th	BIOLOGICAL APPROACH	Ch. 9 and 10
Quiz #4: Testing center Mar. 31st – April 1st (covers Ch. 9-10) Case Study #4 Due Apr. 1st at 10:30 a.m.		
Apr. 1st – April 15th	HUMANISTIC APPROACH	Ch. 11 and 12
Quiz #5: Testing center Apr. 15th – 16th (covers Ch. 11-12) Case Study #5 Due Apr. 20th at 10:30 a.m.		
April 20th – April 27th	CURRENT DIRECTIONS IN PERSONALITY RESEARCH	Supplements
Quiz #6: Testing center Apr. 28th – 29th (covers supplemental lecture and readings) Case Study #6 Due Apr. 29th (turn in by email attachment no later than 10:30 a.m.)		
FINAL EXAM		All Material
Thursday May 6th 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 13	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 19	Drop fee begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 26	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Feb 2	Last day for Refund; Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 3	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 5	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 15	President's Day
Feb 22	Mid-Term Grades Due
Mar 5	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Mar 8-12	Spring Break
Apr 2	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 29	Classes End
Apr 30; May 3-6	Final Exams
May 7	Commencement