



PSYS 450

Psychology of Personality

Spring 2023
Asynchronous Online

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Prerequisite: Completed 6 hours of PSYS courses, including PSYS 100; junior standing, or permission of instructor.

Office hours: Via Zoom by request

Course Description and Learning Outcomes:

This is a fully online, asynchronous course. You will not be asked to attend any in-person meetings and we will not meet as a class via zoom. The course is set up for maximum flexibility so that you can complete each week's assignments on the days and times most convenient for you.

This course is focused on the scientific study of the psychological forces that make people unique--their personalities. This course focuses on helping students broaden their knowledge and understanding of personality psychology through the importance of the unconscious, the role of the self, gender differences, the power of the situation, cultural influences, and other theoretical aspects of personality. Students will learn about the research methods and measurement tools used to evaluate personality, and become comfortable enough with these theories and tools to apply them in the 'real world'.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty.

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards,
- Frequent updates and announcements, and
- Timely feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate knowledge of theories, theorists, research studies, concepts, and themes in personality psychology.
- Demonstrate cultural competence through interpersonal awareness and sensitivity of others.
- Develop a better understanding of one's own personality.

Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking

- Evaluate scientific research methods such as descriptive and experimental research and quantitative analysis.
- Apply critical thinking to evaluating research, popular articles, and cognitive topics in various media.
- Describe how ethical standards apply to psychological science and everyday practices.

Communication

- Synthesize ideas, interpret quantitative and qualitative data, and present evidence-based arguments in various formats including writing and oral communication.

Professional Development

- Apply personality theories and knowledge to real-life situations.
- Describe how what you have learned in studying personality psychology can be used in your professional career.

Required Course Material:

Funder, D. C. *The Personality Puzzle: 8th Edition*. New York: Norton.

Feel free to purchase this book from the cheapest vendor! You can purchase the Ebook or the regular textbook. You could also rent the book from Amazon for the semester. **You DO NOT need to purchase the registration card.**

You will need the book to answer the questions on the reading quiz each week.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Engagement in class (via the discussion board)
- Online activities
- 3 Blackboard exams
- Reading quizzes

GRADING

Your grade is based on the cumulative points you earn from the assignments:

Exams	(3 x 100 points each)	300
Discussion Board	(100 points)	100
Reading quizzes	(100 points)	100
Online activities	(10 X 10 points each)	100
Total:	600 points	

A = 90 – 100%
D = 60 – 69%

B = 80 – 89%
F = below 60%

C = 70 – 79%

Discussion of Grades. Students sometimes want to discuss their grade via e-mail. E-mail is *neither* secure *nor* private. If an individual student requests his/her grade, I cannot reveal to that student his/her grade through e-mail. However, course software does provide a way for you to check your grade on-line. I am cautious in discussing it in detail via email.

CLASS POLICIES

Note: *As we discuss aspects of personality in this class, I ask that we maintain a tone of respect. Please be respectful to your classmates in all of your discussion board posts.*

Class Participation: This course will be conducted entirely online and requires no zoom or face-to-face meetings. Participation will consist of watching the lecture videos, completing the Blackboard quizzes, completing online class activities and submitting them via Blackboard, and completing and reading discussion board posts. Exam material will come from the readings and video lectures.

Late Assignments: Assignments, quizzes, and exams must be completed by the Sunday of the week they are assigned (for full credit, assignments must be completed by Sunday at 11:59PM of the week they are assigned).

Missed exam policy. It is possible to make-up missed exams under the following circumstances: A) **unplanned excused absence** (illness or emergency) or **planned, excused absence** due to university-sponsored events (it is your responsibility to notify me at least 5 days in advance of the exam in order to arrange an alternate testing date). Exams cannot be made up for any other reasons.

Accommodations for Disabilities: Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. Additionally, in compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 745-5004.

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Students must clearly cite any sources consulted—not only for quoted phrases but also for ideas and information that are not common knowledge. **Do not take exams with other students in the course or copy off others during exams. Be careful not to plagiarize someone else's work and do not buy assignments online.** All writing assignments will be run through software to ensure no part of the assignment was plagiarized. If it is determined that any part of an assignment is plagiarized, the student will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Writing Center: Students interested in using this course to develop their writing skills are encouraged to visit the university Writing Center with drafts of their written assignments.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

a.) Exams. There will be 3 open book, open notes exams for this course that will cover separate units. They will be posted on Blackboard on Monday morning (by 9AM) of the scheduled week and must be completed by the following Sunday at 11:59PM of the assigned week. Each exam will be timed (1.5 hours) and will cover content from the specific units of focus. Exams will consist of mostly multiple-choice questions but may also include short answer and essay questions.

b.) Class engagement via Discussion Board: Throughout the semester, engagement in the course will be measured based on your on-time completion of discussion board posts. The post for the week will be due by Sunday at 11:59PM. Read each other's contributions and comment as appropriate. Respond to at least one of your peers' postings. Replies/discussions are professional conversations. This is an opportunity to learn from a diverse group of people with varied professional perspectives and experiences.

c.) Reading Quizzes: Each chapter will have an associated Blackboard reading quiz. All reading quizzes will be due on Sundays at 11:59PM. Check the calendar below for reading quiz due dates. Reading quizzes may be accessed via Blackboard.

d.) Online Activities: Throughout the semester, you will be asked to complete ten online class activities. You will know when to complete the activity by viewing the video lecture. A link to submit the activity will be posted in the tab for the corresponding week on Blackboard. These activities should be completed by Sunday at 11:59PM at the latest.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 17-22rd

- Read syllabus
- Read Chapter 1 (**The Study of the Person**)
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 2: January 23th- 29th

- Read Chapter 2 (**Personality Research Methods**)
- Complete Chapter 2 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 3: January 30th-February 5th

- Read Chapter 3 (**Personality Assessment: Effect size, Replicability, and Open Science**)
- Complete Chapter 3 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 4: February 6th-12th

- Read Chapter 4 (**Persons and Situations**)
- Complete Chapter 4 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 5: February 13th - 19th

- **Exam 1**

Week 6: February 20th – 26th

- Read Chapter 6 (**Traits and Types: The Big Five and Beyond**)
- Complete Chapter 6 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 7: February 27th- March 5th

- Watch segments from assigned documentaries (recording will be posted on Blackboard)
- Read Chapter 7 (**Personality Stability, Development, and Change**)
- Complete Chapter 7 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 8: March 6th-12th

- Read Chapter 8 (**The Anatomy and Physiology of Personality**)
- Complete Chapter 8 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: March 20th – 26th

- Watch assigned documentary (recording will be posted on Blackboard)
- Complete Documentary quiz

Week 11: March 27th- April 2nd

- Read Chapter 14 (**Personality Processes: Learning, Motivation, Emotion, and Thinking**)
- Complete Chapter 14 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 12: April 3rd – 9th

- **Exam 2**

Week 13: April 10th- 16th

- Read Chapter 15 (**The Self: What You Know About You**)
- Complete Chapter 15 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 14: April 17th – 23rd

- Read Chapter 17 (**Mental and Physical Health**)
- Complete Chapter 17 reading quiz
- Watch lecture videos
- Complete discussion board post
- Submit online activity

Week 15: April 24th – April 30th

- **Exam 3**

There is no final exam or paper for this course.

Note: this syllabus is a tentative schedule of the course. I reserve the right to alter this syllabus during the semester in order to facilitate student learning and meet the objectives of the course.