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PSYX 385.01: Psychology of Personality - Methodology, Theories, and Application

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Psychology 385
Psychology of Personality: Methodology, Theories, and Application

The University of Montana
Fall 2013, Section 1
Education Bld 214
Mon/Wed 6:10 – 7:30PM

Instructor: Bill Meyer, M.A.
email: William.meyer@umontana.edu
Office: Skaggs Bldg, Room 311
Office Hours: TBA

Required Text: Friedman, H.S. & Schustack, M.W. (2009). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research, 4th Edition*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Course Objectives: This course provides an introduction to historical and modern conceptualizations of personality. The course includes the following three divisions: background/methodology, theoretical perspectives/aspects, and applications. We begin with background and methodology in order to set the stage for the work to follow. In the second division, we examine the major theoretical perspectives or aspects of personality psychology. Within each aspect, we will study the work of influential/representative theorists. In the course's final weeks, we will apply our new knowledge to investigation of issues of everyday interest. At the close of the semester, I expect you to be well-informed about the field of personality psychology. You will be able to articulate key features of the major theoretical perspectives/aspects in the field, and you will be knowledgeable about the contributions major theorists made to each aspect. Finally, I hope and trust that this course will pique your interest in further study in the field of psychology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & IMPORTANT NOTES

1. **Exams:** Four exams will assess your understanding of the course material. The tentative dates of the first three exams are listed on the attached course schedule. Please note that the dates of the first three exams might change depending on the pace of the class. The date and time of the final examination is determined by the University Registrar's office. *Neither the date nor the time (Monday, December 9th, 7:40p-9:40p) of the final examination will change.* Arrange your schedules accordingly.

Each exam is worth 50 points and includes short answer and multiple choice questions. Exams will assess your understanding of the material presented in the lectures and the assigned readings. Please note that the exams *will* assess knowledge of material from the assigned readings that is *not* discussed in class and material from lecture that will *not* find in the text. The final exam is cumulative and covers the material discussed over the entire semester.

Make-up exams: Without exception, make-up exams will be granted only if an absence is excused. There are three situations for which I will consider a make-up exam: 1) participation in a university-sanctioned athletic event; 2) a prolonged or severe illness; and 3) a death or serious illness in the family that requires the student to miss class. In fairness to all students, excuses must be documented by an appropriate person or agency. Make-up exams will be administered *after* the regularly scheduled exam and are likely to be a different format (e.g., essay questions). Make-up exams must be completed as soon as possible following your return. It is likely that I will not be available for questions before, during, or after the make-up exam. If you are aware of a scheduling problem that conflicts with the exam schedule, bring it to my attention immediately.

2. **Expectations:** You are expected to read assignments prior to class meetings. Your classmates and I will appreciate your discretion with respect to cell phone conversations, text messaging, and personal conversations. Gradesheets, interesting supplemental articles, and other course materials will be posted to Moodle. Finally, I'm happy to correspond with students via email. Please note, however, that university

policy prohibits correspondence using a non-university email account. *Please send all email correspondence from your University of Montana email account.*

Academic integrity: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. Specifically, cheating will result in a “0” for the assignment in question and may result in a failing course grade and dismissal from the university. Please enlist my help if you are having difficulty with the course content. Plagiarism is an example of academic dishonesty and will be handled accordingly. If you have questions about what might constitute plagiarism, please let me know. Finally, all students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code

Please see the Student Conduct Code: <http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

3. **Accommodations for students with disabilities:** I am pleased to make reasonable accommodations for students with a disability. If you have a disability that necessitates accommodation, please let me know right away so we can make a plan together. Please note that I cannot make any accommodations *unless your disability is documented by the Disability Services for Students (DSS: 243-2243)*. Please see <http://life.umt.edu/dss/New%20Student/Documentation.php> for more information or contact Dr. Mary Lee Vance, DSS director, at marvlee.vance@umontana.edu.
4. **Drop dates:** You may drop the course or change your grading option via CyberBear through the 15th instructional day (**September 19th**). You may drop the course or change grading options via Drop/Add form through the 45th instructional day (**October 31st**) (Fee applies: instructor & advisor signatures required). Please note that you will not receive a full refund if you drop the course after instruction has begun. Beyond the 45th day of instruction, dropping courses and/or changing grading options require a Petition to Change Registration form (Fee applies: instructor, advisor and Dean of College signatures required). ***Oct. 31 is the last day to drop classes or change grading options. After that date, I will not sign a Petition to Change Registration unless the student provides documentation of justification (e.g., prolonged illness, family emergencies, etc.)***. Additionally, ‘incompletes’ will be assigned only in the event of documented urgent circumstances. It is your responsibility to contact the Registrar’s office to confirm details and these dates.
5. **Grading:** Course grading is based on a total of 200 points. Points are awarded as follows:

Examinations:	4 @ 50 pts	=	200 points
TOTAL			200 points

There will be no grade curves in this course. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

187-200 pts ≈ (93.4%) A	160-166 pts ≈ (80.0%) B-	133-139 pts ≈ (66.7%) D+
180-186 pts ≈ (90.0%) A-	153-159 pts ≈ (76.7%) C+	120-132 pts ≈ (60.0%) D
173-179 pts ≈ (86.7%) B+	147-152 pts ≈ (73.4%) C	<120 pts = (<60%) F
167-172 pts ≈ (83.4%) B	140-146 pts ≈ (70.0%) C-	

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Mon. Aug. 26	Course overview/Introduction	Chapter 1
Wed. Aug. 28	Measurement	Chapter 2
Mon. Sept 2	Labor Day (No class)	
Wed. Sept. 4	"	"
Mon. Sept. 9	Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic conceptualization	Chapter 3
Wed. Sept. 11	"	"
Mon. Sept. 16	"	"
Wed. Sept. 18	The neo-analytic movement	Chapter 4
Mon. Sept. 23	"	"
Wed. Sept. 25	EXAM # 1 (Chapters 1-4)	
Mon. Sept. 30	Biological aspects of personality	Chapter 5
Wed. Oct. 2	"	"
Mon. Oct. 7	Behavioral and learning aspects	Chapter 6
Wed. Oct. 9	"	"
Mon. Oct. 14	Cognitive and social cognitive aspects	Chapter 7
Wed. Oct. 16	"	"
Mon. Oct. 21	EXAM # 2 (Chapters 5-7)	
Wed. Oct. 23	Trait approaches	Chapter 8
Mon. Oct. 28	"	"
Wed. Oct. 30	Humanism and existentialism	Chapter 9
Mon. Nov. 4		" "
Wed. Nov. 6	Person-Situation Interactionism	Chapter 10
Mon. Nov. 11	No class (Veterans Day)	
Wed. Nov. 13	EXAM # 3 (Chapters 8-10)	
Mon. Nov. 18	Differences related to sex & gender	Chapter 11
Wed. Nov. 20	"	"
Mon. Nov. 25	Individual differences in stress, adjustment and health	Chapter 12
Wed. Nov. 27	Thanksgiving break (No class)	
Mon. Dec. 2	Individual differences in stress, adjustment and health	Chapter 12
Wed. Dec. 4	Issues regarding culture and ethnicity	Chapter 13
Mon. Dec. 9	7:40-9:40pm: FINAL EXAM (Chapters 1-13)	