

1-2014

PSYX 385.90: Psychology of Personality- Methodology, Theories, and Application

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Recommended Citation

Fox, Desiree, "PSYX 385.90: Psychology of Personality- Methodology, Theories, and Application" (2014). *Syllabi*. 2412.
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Psychology 385- Wintersession 2014
Psychology of Personality: Methodology, Theories, and Application

The University of Montana
Fall 2013, Section 90
CHEM 123
MTWRF 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Instructor: Desiree Fox
email: desiree.fox@umontana.edu
Office: TBA
Office Hours: By Appointment (made via email)

Required Materials:

- 1) Friedman, H.S. & Schustack, M.W. (2012). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research, 5th Edition*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- 2) Thought Journal

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 DESCRIPTION, REQUIREMENTS, & IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Exams:

There will be three non-cumulative exams that will assess your understanding of the course material. The tentative dates of the exams are listed on the attached course schedule. Please note that the dates of the first two exams might change depending on the pace of the class. The final examination will take place on the last day of wintersession (1/23/2014).

Each exam is worth 50 points and may include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Exams will assess your understanding of the material presented in the lectures and the assigned readings. Please note that the exams will include material from the assigned readings that is **not** discussed in class, and material from lecture that will **not** be found in the text.

Make-up Exam Policy: 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) Prolonged or severe illness
- 3) 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 may be a different format (e.g., essay questions) or version of the exam. 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 and *before* the scheduled exam.

2. **Groups:**

You will be assigned to discussion/activity groups at the beginning of this course. You will continue to work with these groups for the remainder of the class. The primary purpose of these groups is to facilitate meaningful discussions and encourage you to develop your critical thinking skills. Over the course of the semester, we will have 5 in-class group assignments worth 5 points each. In order to receive credit for these assignments, you must be a present, active member in your group.

3. **Thought Journals:**

Getting three credits in three weeks is no easy task. We will be cramming an entire semester's worth of material into 15 3-hour days. Missing one day is equivalent to missing one week of class. However, understanding and absorbing three hours of lecture material five days a week is stressful. Therefore, there will be a 10-15 minute block set aside every day (with the exception of exam days) in which you will be asked to reflect on material that we have gone over that day. This will give you an opportunity to think more critically about *one* topic of the day. These are your private thoughts about the material. I will not read any of the journals in depth, unless given permission. On the last day of lecture (01/22/2014), I will collect the thought journals and simply check that you did a reflection every day. Complete journals (no missing entries), will earn one extra credit point. If you must miss a day of class, you may write a journal entry for the missed day reflecting on the reading(s) for that day. **Thought Journals are NOT designed to replace therapeutic work.*

4. **Extra Credit:**

Each option is *worth up to 2 extra credit points* and can only be done once. These are due by the end of class on Wednesday, January 22nd, but can also be turned in early.

1. **Literature Review:** Conduct a PsycINFO literature search on a topic of your choice, but related to personality and write a one-page reflection on your findings (e.g., how do you feel about the conclusions the researchers made, what are your ideas for future studies, how does this apply to class, etc.). See below for PsycINFO supplemental information.
2. **Mini-project:** This is your chance to be creative. Create an artistic project (drawing, sculpture, mini-book, poem, etc.) which demonstrates your understanding of a certain concept or event from the psychology of personality material. Attach a description of what you did and how it applies (minimum two paragraphs, maximum three pages).
3. **Media:** you may read a book or watch a movie where personality is a central topic. To receive the 2 points, you will need to submit a 1-2 page review describing the role of personality in the story, any notable myths or theories that are presented (debunked or perpetuated by the presentation), and how your understanding of personality impacted your perspective while reading/watching. Would you recommend this book/movie to others? Why or why not?

**THIS MEANS YOU CAN EARN A TOTAL OF 6 POINTS OF EXTRA CREDIT
BY COMPLETING AND EARNING FULL POINTS ON ALL 3 E.C. ASSIGNMENTS**

5. **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. 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.*

6. **Attendance:**

While attendance is not required, it is HIGHLY recommended. I understand there will be circumstances that may require you to miss class or leave class early. In the case of needing to leave class early, please plan accordingly by notifying me in advance and choose seating that will result in minimal disruption. If you are not able to attend lecture or miss part of a lecture, it is YOUR responsibility to get the notes. I DO NOT GIVE OUT POWERPOINTS AND YOU CANNOT MAKE UP IN-CLASS POINTS.

7. *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>

8. *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 marylee.vance@umontana.edu.

9. *Grading:* Course grading is based on a total of 200 points. Points are awarded as follows:

Examinations:	3 @ 50 pts	=	150 points
Group Activities:	5 @ 5 pts	=	25 points
Thought Journal:	12 @ 2 pts	=	24 points
Complete Journal:	1 @ 1 pts	=	1 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-	

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?*

The answer to this question is beyond the scope of this course. Sometimes questions arise which I cannot or do not feel comfortable answering (e.g., I am not going to guess and call it fact). Recognize that studying the psychology of personality is complicated and there are many questions that are difficult and/or simply impossible to answer at this point.

2. *What is PsycINFO? How do I access it?*

PsycINFO is an online tool for searching articles, book chapters, etc. in the field of psychology. You must be online on campus, or have your browser configured to work with a proxy server so that you can access campus resources off-campus. Go to <http://www.lib.umt.edu/>, select “Library A to Z,” “D” for “Databases A to Z,” then you can find “PsycINFO” under “P”.

4. *What if my search turns up too many articles?*

Part of this assignment is figuring out how to do a “good” search in PsycINFO. You may narrow your search by adding other constraints, such as the publication type or year, or by adding another keyword to your search. For example, “substance use” would yield thousands of articles, but adding the keyword “bipolar disorder” and/or “adolescent” would narrow this down considerably.

5. *What if I can't access the article I want to read online?*

Although many articles are available online, some require going to a print copy of the article (e.g., actually finding a journal by going to the library, and then photocopying the article so that you can read it. We don't have every journal in our library, so if there's one you want but can't get here, then select another article.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Required Reading
Thurs. Jan. 2	Course overview/Introduction	Chapter 1, 2
Fri. Jan. 3	Psychoanalysis/Neo-Analytic	Chapter 3, 4
Mon. Jan. 6	Neo-Analytic	Chapter 4
Tues. Jan. 7	EXAM #1 (Ch. 1-4)	
Wed. Jan. 8	Biological	Chapter 5
Thur. Jan. 9	Behaviorist & Learning	Chapter 6
Fri. Jan. 10	Cognitive & Traits	Chapter 7, 8
Mon. Jan. 13	Traits	Chapter 8
Tues. Jan. 14	EXAM #2 (Ch. 5-8)	
Wed. Jan. 15	Humanistic, Existential & Positive Psychology	Chapter 9
Thurs. Jan. 16	Person-Situation Interactionist	Chapter 10
Fri. Jan. 17	Male-Female Differences; Stress, Adjustment & Health	Chapter 11, 12
Mon. Jan. 20	NO CLASS- Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Tues. Jan. 21	Stress, Adjustment & Health; Culture, Religion & Ethnicity	Chapter 12, 13
Wed. Jan. 22	Culture, Religion & Ethnicity (<i>Extra Credit and Journals DUE</i>)	Chapter 13
Thurs. Jan. 23	EXAM #3 (FINAL EXAM; Ch. 9-13)	

~ This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.

~ Students are responsible for *any* announcements made in class, whether attending or otherwise. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

NOTE:

If you ever feel like you are falling behind/not understanding the material/not getting the grade you want, please let me know and we can work together to see what you're missing!
