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

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PSYX 385 (Section 01)

Psychology of Personality: Methodology, Theories, & Application Spring 2017

Course Location and Time

Jeanette Rankin Hall, Room 207
MWF 9:00-9:50am

Instructor Information

C. Ivie English
Email: clarissa.english@umontana.edu
Office: Skaggs Bldg., Room 368
Office hours: Tuesday 9:30-11:30am; Wednesday 10-11am
(or via appointment; scheduled hours are subject to change)

Required Text

1. Friedman, H.S. & Schustack, M.W. (2012). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research, 5th Edition*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
2. Additional supplemental readings may be announced and made available.

Course Objectives

This course introduces historical and modern conceptualizations of personality. The course includes the following three major sections: background/methodology, major 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 days, we will apply our new knowledge to investigation of issues of everyday interest. At the close of the Winter Session, 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 of major theorists to each aspect. Knowledge in these areas will increase your understanding of the human experience and will serve as a foundation for development of knowledge regarding counseling and psychotherapeutic interventions. **Whether or not you are a psychology major, it is my goal that this course will spark your interest in further study in the field of psychology.**

Learning Outcomes

Over the course of the semester, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of commonly used research methodologies in personality psychology and will understand how different types of personality data inform the science of personality.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical and contemporary theoretical models of personality.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the application of personality theory to physical health, gender, and culture/ethnicity.

Course Requirements and Policies

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. 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

Make-up exams will be granted only if an absence is excused for one of the following situations: 1) participation in a university-sanctioned athletic event; 2) a prolonged or severe illness; and 3) death or serious illness in your family. In fairness to all students, reasons for missed exams **must be documented in writing** by an appropriate person or agency. Make-up exams will be administered immediately upon your return to class and may differ in format from the standard exam (e.g., essay questions only). Furthermore, I am unlikely to be available for questions before or during make-up exams. Please let me know right away if you're aware of an exam scheduling problem.

2. Course Expectations

You are expected to read all assignments **prior to class meetings**. I also expect you to be present for each class meeting and to be an active class participant. Your classmates and I will appreciate your discretion with respect to cell phone conversations, text messaging, and personal conversations. Finally, although I'm happy to correspond with students via email, University policy prohibits e-mail correspondence to and from a non-University email account. ***Please send all email correspondence from your University account.***

3. 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.

4. 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](#).

5. Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability

adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

6. Drop date

You may drop the course or change your grading option via CyberBear through the 15th instructional day of this course. I will assign an 'incomplete' only when urgent circumstances arise. These circumstances will require appropriate documentation (e.g., letter from a physician, etc.). It is your responsibility to contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to confirm details/requirements and implication of registration changes and the dates above.

7. Grading

Course grading is based on a total of 200 points.

Weighted final: Because the final exam is cumulative, I use a 'weighted' final procedure for those students who do better on the final than the average of their performance on Exams 1-3. This weighted procedure makes the final exam 'worth' ½ of the final grade, while the average of Exams 1-3 composes the other ½. This procedure is only used if the student does better on the final and only when it improves the student's point total.

Standard final: When a student's final performance is equal to or less good the average of Exams 1-3, I use a standard weight for the final. In this case, each exam is worth 50 points (i.e., 25% of the final point total).

A few **extra credit opportunities** will be available, but the instructor reserves the right to make these opportunities available to students who are regularly attending class and participating. These will be announced in class and via Moodle.

There will be no grade curves in this course. Point totals are always 'rounded up' in the student's favor.

Final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

Points	Letter Grade
185-200	A
179-184	A-
175-178	B+
166-174	B
159-165	B-
155-158	C+
139-154	C
119-138	D
<119	F

Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	CHAPTER
Monday, January 23	Course overview and introduction; Intro to Personality	Syllabus; Ch. 1
Wednesday, Jan. 25	Measurement and Psychometrics	Chapters 1, 2
Friday, Jan. 27	Measurement and Psychometrics cont.	Chapter 2
Mon., Jan. 30	Psychoanalysis: Origins	Chapter 3
Wed., February 1	Psychoanalysis: Models	Chapter 3
Fri., Feb. 3	Psychoanalysis: Defense & Development	Chapter 3
Mon., Feb. 6	Psychoanalysis continued; Intro to Neoanalysts	Chapter 3; 4
Wed., Feb. 8	Neoanalysts: Jung, Adler	Chapters 4
Fri., Feb. 10	Neoanalysts: Horney	Chapter 4
Mon., Feb. 13	Neoanalysts cont.; Review	Ch. 4; Review
Wed., Feb. 15	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4
Fri., Feb. 17	Biological aspects: Temperament	Chapter 5
Mon., Feb. 20	NO CLASS – PRESIDENT’S DAY	-
Wed., Feb. 22	Eysenck’s Arousal/Activation theory	Chapter 5
Fri., Feb. 24	Gray’s reinforcement sensitivity; Buss’ Evolutionary approaches	Chapter 5
Mon., Feb. 27	Behavioral and learning aspects of Personality: Pavlov and Watson	Chapter 6
Wed., March 1	Skinner’s Behaviorism	Chapter 6
Fri., March 3	Behaviorism cont.	Chapter 6
Mon., March 6	Cognitive Aspects of Personality: Kelly	Chapter 7
Wed., March 8	Bandura’s Social Cognitive Theory	Chapter 7
Fri., March 10	Cognitive Approaches cont.; Review	Ch. 7; Review
Fri., March 17	NO CLASS	-

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	CHAPTER
March 20-24	NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK	-
Mon. March 27	Trait-Based Aspects of Personality: Allport, Factor Analysis, Cattell	Chapter 8
Wed., March 29	Five Factor Model and Theory	Chapter 8
Fri., March 30	Trait-Based Aspects continued	Chapter 8
Mon., April 3	Humanism: Maslow	Chapter 9
Wed., April 5	Humanism: Carl Rogers and the self-concept	Chapter 9
Fri., April 7	NO CLASS	-
Mon., April 10	Rogers and Self-Concept Cont.	Chapter 9
Wed., April 12	Person-Situation Interactionism: HS Sullivan and Henry Murray	Chapter 10
Fri., April 14	Walter Mischel's Cognitive Affective Personality System	Chapter 10
Mon., April 17	Person-Situation Interactionism cont.; Review	Ch. 10; Review
Wed., April 19	Exam 3	Chapters 8-10
Fri., April 21	Sex and Gender: Basic Principles	Chapter 11
Mon., April 24	The Gender Similarities Hypothesis and Contemporary Issues	Chapter 11
Wed., April 26	Gender Approaches continued	Chapter 11
Fri., April 28	Personality and Health: Pathways and Mechanisms	Chapter 12
Mon., May 1	Personality and Health cont.	Chapter 12
Wed., May 3	Personality and Health continued	Chapter 12; Evaluations
Fri., May 12	10:10am-12:10pm Final Exam	Final Exam (Chapters 1-12)