

Shepherd University

Spring 2011

Psychology of Personality (PSYC 410, section 01)

3 credits

SYLLABUS

Meets: 12:25-1:40 pm TR in White Hall 305

Professor: Dr. Anne Murtagh amurtagh@shepherd.edu **Phone:** (304) 876-5257
Office: Stutzman-Slonaker Rm. 108

OFFICE HOURS: **Mon. 11-12 noon**
 Tues. 11-12 noon, 2-4 pm
 Wed. 11-12 noon
 Thurs. 11-12 noon
 Other times by appt.

Required Textbook: *Personality Theories, 7th ed.*, by Barbara Engler
(Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Catalog description: A study of a variety of theories of personality determinants, structure, and functioning.

***Psychology of Personality* has the prerequisite of *Introduction to Psychology* (or an equivalent course). You should not take this course if you have NOT had *Introduction to Psychology*.**

Welcome to Psychology of Personality!

Psychology of Personality is a course that invites you to think deeply, and in new ways, about **human life, what we are like as people, how we got to be that way, and what it might take to enrich our lives.**

As you are probably aware, Psychology is an objective natural science. However, the purpose of this course is to explore various **theories of personality**, with some attention to the results of scientific studies related to those theories. That is, this is a more **conceptual** course -- more **about ideas and their usefulness** -- than many psychology courses are. I invite you to try on these ideas with me -- see how they fit your life.

- ✓ NOTE: 2 important features that can help you to succeed in this course:
 - **Focus questions** to guide your reading and review of each chapter. Our class discussions and exams will draw heavily from these questions.
 - **Sakai** -- syllabus, schedule, other handouts, and Powerpoint lectures will be posted on Sakai for your convenience. From the college website, click on Sakai – use your e-mail username and password. Our class should be one of your Sites listed at top. Here you can also view any announcements or check on your grades. Announcements will also be e-mailed to your Shepherd University account -- so be sure to check your Shepherd e-mail regularly.

OBJECTIVES FOR PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY:

By the end of the semester, you will:

- describe the assumptions, overall organization, and key concepts of major personality theories.
- apply main ideas and key concepts of major personality theories to particular cases.
- assess the contributions of major personality theories as
 - 1) science
 - 2) philosophy
 - 3) practical applications.

To accomplish these goals:

- Complete assigned text readings
- Study Powerpoint slides
- Take an active part in group discussions and activities
- Review and study for exams
- Research the literature in psychology and write a paper on one personality theory or concept

GRADING

Your grade points will be added to obtain your grade for the course:

- Paper 30 pts.
- 4 exams, each 15 pts. 60 pts.
- Class participation -- quantity and quality of your contributions to class discussions and activities. 10 pts.

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F

MORE DETAILS ABOUT COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PAPER (30/100 pts.)

DUE Tues., April 26

Take one personality theorist and **summarize and analyze 3 empirical studies that have been done on that theory (or on one or more key concepts from the theory)**. (E.g., you could look for any 3 empirical studies related to any aspect of Jung's theory, or you could find 3 articles focusing on one concept, like Bandura's idea of *self-efficacy*.)

When I say "empirical research" I mean specific reports of scientific studies that were conducted. To be sure your articles are descriptions of empirical studies, **look for separate sections in the article describing their participants, methods used, specific statistics and results, etc.**

Use the library databases to search for articles from professional journals in psychology and related fields. Ask me, or consult a reference librarian, if you are not clear about how to locate appropriate articles. **You will need to comb through** the articles you locate that are related to your topic – **some of them will be quite difficult** (remember -- these articles are written for scientists who specialize in this area!). Some will be too difficult, and others will be more readable and understandable (with some effort on your part). Naturally, if you want to write a quality paper, **be careful to choose articles that**

you can mostly understand. (Results sections are particularly difficult for novices in the area – if you do not follow all the statistical analyses, that is OK, but you should have a basic grasp of what they did and how they did it.) Avoid very technical articles – e.g., about neuropsychology, genetics, or physiology.

Paper should be in **APA style** (see sample APA paper under “Resources”, left-hand menu), 8-10 pages (including cover page, abstract, and references), in 10-12 pt. type, with 1-in. margins. Include:

- Separate **cover page** in APA style
- **Abstract** on separate page, double-spaced (see sample). The abstract should summarize your paper – an introductory sentence about the theory, 1-2 sentences for each article, summarizing what they did and what they found, and a sentence about what can be concluded.
- ✓ **Main body** of your paper should have these sections (but not on separate pages).
 - ❖ **overview** of the theory and concepts of one personality theorist (approx. 1-2 pages – use our text or another source of information for this);
 - ❖ **3 empirical studies**: for each study, describe the central question of interest, methods, results, and conclusions (about 1-1/2 to 2 pages for each);
 - ❖ **critique and conclusions**: First evaluate the 3 studies – do they seem to be well-controlled studies? Was there an adequate sample size (no. of participants), and were participants balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, SES, etc.? Based on the quality of the research and the findings, what can we conclude overall about this theory? That is, are the theory and key concepts supported by this research? (1-2 pages)
- ✓ **References** page. List your references (your 3 articles and whatever other sources you use) in APA style.

Start thinking about your topic now (comb through the book and see what interests you), and be sure to **allow yourself ample time to locate articles** related to your topic that you can understand. It is **difficult to tell much from just an abstract – you will need to review the article itself** before you decide whether to use it.

On Thurs., March 24th, an annotated bibliography is due. This will consist of summaries of your 3 empirical articles. At the top of each, list the authors, year, title, etc. in the style of an APA references page. For each summary, be sure to describe the general question or hypothesis, the methods, the results, and conclusions that were drawn. Each summary should be 1-1/2 to 2 pages long. **(The annotated bibliography will count for 5 pts. of your paper grade. You MUST submit it on time to get these 5 pts.)**

When you are summarizing and analyzing these articles, BE SURE TO WRITE COMPLETELY IN YOUR OWN WORDS! Your papers should reflect your own words and thoughts, unless you indicate otherwise. You must give credit for ideas or statements that are not your own. If you are summarizing someone’s ideas in your own words, you must cite the source of the ideas. It should be clear in every statement or sentence whether you are expressing your own thoughts, or reporting those of someone else. Avoid using quotes in your papers, but if you find a quote that you think will add substantially to the paper, you must use quotation marks around the quote, and give the precise source of that quote, including the author, source, and page no.

Turnitin

It is required that you submit your paper to **Turnitin.com** for an originality report – i.e., a report of how much your paper matches up to existing papers in their (very extensive) database. To do this, go to www.turnitin.com and create an account (it is free).

Our **class ID is**

3736990

and the **password is**

psychpers (case-sensitive)

Please note that when you submit your paper to Turnitin, it becomes part of its database; if you have questions or problems related to that, please come talk to me.

If you submit your paper late to me or to Turnitin, 5 points will be deducted for each weekday that it is late.

EXAMS (15 pts. each)

Exams will consist of multiple-choice and some essay questions. There will be 4 exams (3 regular exams and the final exam). The final will be comprehensive, covering the whole session, but will count equally with the others in your grade.

- I will give you **Focus questions** to guide your reading and review of each chapter. Our discussions and exams will draw heavily from these questions.
- However, there will be some questions on each exam based on key terms (in bold) or main ideas (see Summary) from the chapter, which were not always covered by the focus questions or in Powerpoints. If you want to do well, do not just rely on the Powerpoint lectures in studying for exams.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (10 pts.)

As you read about theories of personality, think: *“How does this relate to my life?”* or *“How does this relate to people I care about?”* Come ready to discuss in class these ideas and any questions you might have.

GROUP ANALYSES

For many theories, we will do case analyses in small groups – taking a case description and applying concepts of that theory to the individual described. **This is a good way to earn Class Participation points** -- submit these group analyses for Class Participation points, and groups earn points for presenting their cases as well.

Policy on academic integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the

assignment. Penalty for violation of this can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Texting or other discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is taking credit for the ideas or statements of someone else, presenting it as your own work. It is becoming more common these days, as people cut and paste material from the Internet, and falsely submit it as their own writing. **However, there are ways to detect this dishonesty. Plagiarism is a serious act, and it will be reported to the Dean of the College. Suspension or dismissal from the college are possible consequences.** If you have any questions at all about what is OK and what is not, please ask me. For more information about the university's policies related to academic honesty, please see the Shepherd University Student Handbook.

Exam Makeup Policy

Students are only allowed to make up an examination if an emergency prevents them from completing the exam that day. ("Not feeling well" is not an adequate excuse.) Written documentation verifying the emergency must be provided. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

Shepherd Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Please contact me to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Please feel free to contact me (e-mail or call – see contact information on front page) if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or if I can be of service to you in any way.

Let's have a great semester!

Schedule for Psychology of Personality

Readings (to be done by the date listed), exams and other assignments.

<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
1/11 Intro. to course	1/13 For today, read <i>Chap. 1 / Intro.: Evaluating Personality Theories</i>
1/18 For today, read <i>Chap. 2 / Psychoanalysis: Sigmund Freud</i>	1/20 Group analysis: Freud
1/25 Read <i>Chap. 3 / Analytical Psychology: Carl Jung</i>	1/27 Read <i>Chap. 4 / Interpsychic Theories: Alfred Adler , Harry Stack Sullivan</i>
2/1 Group analysis: Adler	2/3 Read <i>Chap. 5 / Psychoanalytic Social Psychology: Karen Horney, Erich Fromm</i>
2/8 Test (Chaps. 1-5)	2/10 Read <i>Chap. 6 / Ego Analytic Psychology: Anne Freud, Erik Erikson</i>
2/15 Read <i>Chap. 7/ Human Relations: Object Relations Theory, the Stone Center Group</i>	2/17 Group analysis: Human relations
2/22 Read <i>Chap. 8 / Experimental Analysis of Behavior: John Dollard, Neal Miller, B.F. Skinner</i>	2/24 Group analysis: learning and behaviorism (Dollard, Miller & Skinner)
3/1 <i>Chap. 9 / Social Learning Theories: Albert Bandura, Julian Rotter, Walter Mischel</i>	3/3 Midterm exam (Chaps. 1-9)
3/8 <i>Chap. 10 / Traits and Personology: Gordon Allport, Henry Murray</i>	3/10 Group analysis: Allport and Murray
3/15 SPRING RECESS ☺	3/17 SPRING RECESS ☺
3/22 <i>Chap. 11 / Factor Analytic Theories: Raymond Cattell, Big Five Personality Traits</i>	3/24 Group analysis: Cattell and The Big Five Annotated bibliography due
3/29 <i>Chap. 12 / Biological Traits: Hans Eysenck</i>	3/31 <i>Chap. 13 / Humanism: Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers</i>
4/5 Group analysis: Maslow and Rogers	4/7 Test (Chaps. 10-13)
4/12 <i>Chap. 14 / Existential Psychoanalysis: Rollo May</i>	4/14 <i>Chap. 15 / Personal Constructs: George Kelly</i>
4/19 <i>Chap. 16 / Cognitive-Behavioral Theories: Albert Ellis, Aaron Beck, Arnold Lazarus</i>	4/21 SPRING WEEKEND RECESS (If no snow days used)
4/26 <i>Chap. 17 / Zen Buddhism</i> Paper due	4/28 <i>Conclusion/ Personality Theory in Perspective</i> Last class
Final exam Tues. 5/3 12-2 pm (comprehensive – covers whole semester)	