

Psychology of Personality

PSY 351 – Spring, 2011 (Section 2)

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Meeting Time/Place: Monday, 7:00-9:40 pm, Arts & Letters (AL) 201
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 and by appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Fiona Cochrum-Nguyen (fcnguyen18@yahoo.com) & Dominique Mansell (mansellodom@gmail.com)

Required Textbook:

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2010). Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature (4th Edition). Malden, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Additional information including the Student Study Guide can be found on the **textbook's website** (<http://www.mhhe.com/larsen4>).

Course Objectives: This class is designed to provide an introduction to the field of Personality Psychology, including major theories and research in the field. The course will focus on introducing and discussing approaches from 6 domains: The Dispositional Domain, The Biological Domain, The Intrapsychic Domain, The Cognitive Domain, The Social and Cultural Domain, and The Adjustment Domain. Additional learning objectives for each chapter are available on the textbook's website.

Class Format: The class format will be primarily lecture, which will be supplemented with videos and class discussions. Through lectures and class discussions, it is my hope that you come away from this course with a better understanding of Personality Psychology and the various domains within the field. Active participation is encouraged and will provide a more enjoyable learning environment for everyone. I welcome your questions and encourage you to ask them without hesitation when you need more information, a different explanation, an additional example, or clarification. Due to the technical nature of some of the course material, I suggest that students read the assigned readings **BEFORE** we discuss the material in class. Again, please feel free to ask questions in class when you are unsure of a particular concept or application.

Attendance: Class attendance is strongly recommended. Exam material will come from material from class lectures and the textbook. If you can't attend a particular class, please borrow notes from a classmate (lecture notes are not available from Professor Conte or from the teaching assistants).

Exams: There will be **3** multiple-choice exams, which are designed to assess your knowledge of the lectures and the reading assignments in the textbook. Each exam is worth 1/3rd of your grade. Please bring a #2 pencil to each exam. In addition, please bring the Wide Red Par Score (#F-288-PAR-L) form to Exam 1. Please bring the Narrow Red Par Score (#F-289-PAR-L) form to Exam 2 and the Final Exam. Please arrive on time for the exams. If you arrive to an exam after the first person has finished the exam and left the room, you will **NOT** be allowed to take the exam. Further, it is very important for you to be present for the exams. If some extreme event requires you to miss an exam, you must contact me about missing the exam before the scheduled exam date. If you do not contact me before missing the exam, no make-up exam will be allowed. The only exception will be for a medical or family emergency, and you must have documented proof of the emergency (for example, a doctor's note). You must inform me of the emergency within 2 days of the regular exam date. **All make-up exams will be essay format.**

Final Grading Scale: The final grading scale based on total points for the 3 exams is as follows:

279-300 --> A
270-278 --> A-
264-269 --> B+
249-263 --> B
240-248 --> B-
234-239 --> C+
219-233 --> C
210-218 --> C-
204-209 --> D+
189-203 --> D
180-188 --> D-
000-179 --> F

Blackboard: The syllabus and Powerpoint slides for each lecture will be posted on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>) as will your exam scores. Important class announcements will also appear occasionally on Blackboard, so please check Blackboard at least weekly.

Students with Special Needs: Students who need accommodation of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101, Third Floor), please do so before making an appointment to see me. Students should contact me as soon as possible (and certainly before the first exam).

Office Hours: You are encouraged to stop by during my office hours to talk about questions, problems, or suggestions you may have concerning the course, about career interests, or about graduate school. If you want to meet and find my office hours are not convenient, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me. I will always be available immediately after class for any questions you have, and many students find this is a good time to touch base with me about the course.

Cell Phones: As a courtesy to your fellow students, if you need to be able to take a phone call during class, please configure your phone to vibrate and not ring and then leave the room to take the call. If you need to text message, please leave the room to do so.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity:

To minimize the possibility of plagiarism occurring, it is worth clarifying the definition of plagiarism: Stealing others' work (for example, copying others' test answers, projects, or assignments) and passing it off as your own is an example of plagiarism. Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with through the appropriate university channels. If you are caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing an assignment, you will receive a zero, and you may receive an F in the course. In addition, the incident will be reported to campus authorities and may lead to probation, suspension, or even expulsion from the University. Please see me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or other violations of the academic integrity policy.

Websites Related to Personality Psychology: Several websites related to Personality Psychology can be used to explore additional information about the field:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personality_psychology

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/person.htm>

<http://personality-project.org/>

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scheduled Topic</u>	<u>Chapter Assignment</u>
Jan. 24	Course Overview	
Jan. 31	Introduction to Personality Psychology	1
Feb. 07	Personality Assessment, Measurement, & Research Design	2
Feb. 14	Traits & Trait Taxonomies	3
Feb. 21	Theoretical/Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology, Exam #1 Review	4
Feb. 28	Exam #1	
Mar. 07	Personality Dispositions over Time: Stability, Coherence, & Change	5
Mar. 14	Genetics & Personality	6
Mar. 21	Psychoanalytic Approaches to Personality	9
Mar. 28	Spring Break – Enjoy!	
Apr. 04	Motives & Personality, Review for Exam #2	11
Apr. 11	Exam #2	
Apr. 18	Cognitive Topics in Personality	12
Apr. 25	Personality and Social Interaction	15
May 02	Sex, Gender, and Personality	16
May 09	Stress & Health, Summary & Future Directions, Review for Final	18, 20
May 16	FINAL EXAM (Monday, 7:00PM - 9:00PM)	

Note: Dates and topics for course schedule are tentative, and students are responsible for any announcements made in class concerning schedule, exam, and reading/homework assignment changes.