

**Psychology 351: Psychology of Personality**  
**Spring 2011**  
**Fridays 9:00 – 11:40AM, Room N101**  
**Schedule Number: 60080 (3 units)**

Instructor: Elizabeth D. Cordero, Ph.D.

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Student Hours: Fridays 2:30-4:30PM or by appointment

**Course Materials (available online and at the SDSU-IV bookstore):**

Friedman, H. S., & Schustack, M. W. (2011). *Personality: Classic theories and modern research* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. (ISBN-10: 0-205-05017-4; ISBN-13: 978-0-204-05017-8)

**Course Description**

From the SDSU Course Catalog, p 391:

“Major theoretical approaches to individual differences and the study of the person. Techniques of personality assessment. Selected research findings.”

We each have a personality...or do we? What exactly constitutes “personality?” If we do each have one, how do our personalities develop? How do we change our personalities? This course is designed to provide a general overview of the psychology of human personality, including theories about personality development, personality assessment, gender and personality, and cultural contributions to personality. These topics are essential to understanding each other and ourselves. By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- Discuss classic theories about personality
- Identify methods used in personality research
- Consider gender similarities and differences in personality
- Determine how culture, religion, and ethnicity influence personality
- Verbalize your thoughts about whether or not one’s personality can be changed
- Investigate how phenomena such as love and health affect and are affected by personality

Prerequisites (from the SDSU Course Catalog, p 391): “Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.”

## Course Textbook

I chose *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research* by Friedman and Schustack because it is a well-written textbook that presents information about the “grand” theories of and current science behind personality. Additionally, the textbook has helpful features such as “Self-Understanding” and “Sharpen Your Thinking” boxes that facilitate your consideration of how what you’re learning applies to yourself and to critical social issues. The textbook is an integral part of this course; you will not pass this course unless you read and study the textbook.

## Course Requirements

Examinations – There will be four examinations in this course. The dates of the tests are **2/18 (Exam 1), 3/25 (Exam 2), 5/6 (Exam 3), and 5/13 (Final Exam)**. All exams will consist of multiple-choice and/or matching questions, and material covered in the textbook and class lectures will be tested. You need to bring a scantron and a pencil to each exam. Exams 1, 2, and 3 will have 50 questions worth one point each and will not be cumulative. I will drop your lowest score from Exams 1, 2, and 3, so only two of these exams will count toward your grade in this class. The Final Exam will be cumulative and will have 100 questions worth one point each. Your score on the Final Exam will count toward your grade in this class. All exams will begin at 9:00AM the date each is scheduled. If you arrive to class after 9:15AM on exam days, you will not be permitted to take the exam. Additionally, you will not be allowed to leave during an exam to answer telephone calls or to use the restroom. There will be no make-up exams unless absence from an exam occurs because of a religious holiday, medical reason, or a university-sanctioned event. If you cannot attend the exams for any other reason, you should not enroll in this course. Please inform me of planned absences for religious holidays or university-sanctioned events by the end of the second week of the semester.

## Course Grading

There is a total of 200 points possible for this course. The class will not be curved; thus you are not in competition with your fellow students.

185-200 points: A	155-159 points: C+	120-124 points: D -
180-184 points: A -	145-154 points: C	119 points or less: F
175-179 points: B+	140-144 points: C-	
165-174 points: B	135-139 points: D+	
160-164 points: B -	125-134 points: D	

Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties with completion of the course requirements or if there is something in particular you’d like to learn about that pertains to this course. I’d like to facilitate you having as much of a positive experience

as possible. Additionally, students who need accommodation of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations of which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473, please do so before making an appointment to see me.

A few words about cheating and plagiarism from the SDSU Faculty Handbook 2006, p 22:

“Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations of academic standards and, if they occur in connection with an academic program at SDSU, may warrant academic sanctions..as well as disciplinary sanctions..(such as probation, suspension, or expulsion..).”

In order to preserve academic integrity and encourage students to make responsible choices, all students found cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic fail for the course and will be sent to the appropriate administrative body for review for the aforementioned consequences. Please review the university’s definition of plagiarism in the SDSU General Catalog.

Students are asked to be respectful of all ideas and information presented; disrespect or intolerance will not be tolerated. Please turn all cell phones and pagers to “silent” mode during class. The instructor will keep her cell phone on the “silent” mode in order to be reached in the case of campus emergencies.

## Course Outline

Week 1 01/21	<b>Greetings and Review of Syllabus</b> <b>What is Personality and How is Personality Assessed?/What is Plagiarism?</b> Reading: Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2 01/28	<b>Psychoanalytic Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapter 3
Week 3 02/04	<b>Neo-Analytic and Ego Aspects of Personality: Identity</b> Reading: Chapter 4
Week 4 02/11	<b>Biological and Behavioral Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapters 5 & 6
Week 5 02/18	<b>Exam 1 (Weeks 1 - 4)</b>
Week 6 02/25	<b>Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapter 7
Week 7 03/04	<b>Trait Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapter 8
Week 8 03/11	<b>Humanistic, Existential, and Positive Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapter 9
Week 9 03/18	<b>Person-Situation Interactionist Aspects of Personality</b> Reading: Chapter 10
Week 10 03/25	<b>Exam 2 (Weeks 6 - 9)</b>
Week 11 04/01	<b>Spring Break</b>
Week 12 04/08	<b>Gender, Culture, and Personality</b> Reading: Chapters 11& 13
Week 13 04/15	<b>Stress, Adjustment, and Health Differences</b> Reading: Chapter 12
Week 14 04/22	<b>Love and Hate</b> Reading: Chapter 14
Week 15 04/29	<b>Online lecture: The Future of Personality Psychology</b> Reading: Chapter 15
Week 16 05/06	<b>Exam 3 (Weeks 12 - 15)</b>
Finals 05/13	<b>Final Exam (Cumulative)</b>