

Psychology of Personality (PSY 351)
Spring 2011
T-Th 8:00 – 9:15am

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Angela Vaiasuso (LS north 24 B)

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Course Description:

This course is a study of modern theories of personality. Emphasis is placed on personality research methods (experimental, correlational, and case studies), theoretical approaches (psychoanalytic, trait, biological, humanistic, behavioral/social learning and cognitive) and their applications. Assessment techniques associated with the above theoretical approaches will also be examined.

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete Psychology 351 should be able to:

1. Understand personality research methods
2. Describe the major personality approaches
3. Identify/analyze the similarities and differences between the personality approaches
4. Describe the assessment procedures of the personality approaches
5. Describe practical applications of the personality approaches

Text:

Burger, J.M. (2008). *Personality*. (8th ed.). Belmont, California: Wadsworth/Cengage.

*custom text with powerpoint notes and assessments is available at the SDSU bookstore

Classroom Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: The Student Code of Conduct is online at <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html>. The academic dishonesty code specifies actions for behaviors such as cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or inappropriately collaborating with others. I will enforce the code in the course; cheating or other violations will result in appropriate penalties, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and the reporting of that incident to the Center of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students have the right to appeal such action in accord with due process.

Students with disabilities: San Diego State University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Student Disability Services (SDS), 619.594.6473 or online at <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds>.

Grade challenges: Upon receiving graded assignments, you have **1 week** to challenge your grade. This includes the grade for the final exam and your final grade for the class. After one week, grade challenges will not be reviewed.

Evaluation and Grades:

Exams: The course consists of four content areas, each of which concludes with an in-class exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The exams will include questions on both the lectures and the text chapters. You will need an 882 scantron. A review sheet will be posted on Blackboard one week prior to each exam. If an exam is missed (with a university excuse) a makeup will be arranged. If an exam is missed (with a reasonable excuse) then a makeup to be taken within one week will be arranged. In addition, 5 points will be deducted from exam score. Once you have started taking an exam in class you may not leave the room for any reason (e.g., bathroom).

Personality Approach Papers: Students will write three Personality Approach Papers. Each paper is worth 30 points. For each paper, students will choose a different personality phenomenon/disorder (e.g., anxiety, depression, aggression) and discuss the phenomenon in terms of a personality approach (e.g., Psychoanalytic, Trait, Humanistic). All students will use the Psychoanalytical Approach in their first paper. For the second paper, students can choose from Biological or Humanistic Approaches and for the third paper, from the Behavioral/Social Learning or Cognitive Approaches. Each paper should be approximately 3-4 pages in length, (not including title & reference pages) and include the following information:

- general description of the phenomenon/disorder
- general description of the personality approach
- how the specific approach explains the phenomenon/disorder
- possible treatments for the phenomenon/disorder

- follow the American Psychological Association (APA) format
- in addition to your book, use at least 1 other reference
- Paper #1 is due Thursday February 24
- Paper #2 is due Thursday March 24
- Paper #3 is due Tuesday May 3

Pop Quizzes: There will be 10 pop quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will cover lecture information from the class session before the quiz. Pop quizzes will be worth 5 points. Your top 9 scores will count. Your lowest score will be bonus points. There are NO make-up quizzes unless you have a university excuse.

Personality Assessments: We will be completing several personality assessments in class. The assessments will be posted on Blackboard a few days before we complete them in class (you will be notified via email). If you bring a copy of the assessment and complete it in class you will receive 1 bonus point. Your grade will not be negatively impacted if you do not complete the assessments. There are NO make-up assessments unless you have a university excuse.

Grading will be as follows:

Exams (4)	400 (100 each)
Personality Approach Papers (3)	90 (30 each)
Pop Quizzes	45 (9 out of 10)

Total possible points	535
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A = 94% & above	C = 73 - 76%
A- = 90 - 93%	C- = 70 - 72%
B+ = 87 - 89%	D+ = 67 - 69%
B = 83 - 86%	D = 63 - 66%
B- = 80 - 82%	D- = 60 - 62%
C+ = 77 - 79%	F = 59 & below

Attendance:

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. If a student is unable to complete the course, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw.

Class Schedule:

January	20	Overview
	25	Ch.1 What is Personality?
	27	Ch.2 Personality Research Methods
February	1	Ch.2 Personality Research Methods
	3	Ch.3 Psychoanalytic Approach: Freudian Theory
	8	Ch.3 Psychoanalytic Approach: Freudian Theory
	10	Ch.4 Freudian Approach: Relevant Research
	15	Ch.4 Freudian Approach: Relevant Research
	17	Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 4)
	22	Ch. 5 Psychoanalytic Approach: Neo-Freudian Theory
March	24	Ch. 5 Psychoanalytic Approach: Neo-Freudian Theory
	1	MBTI Group 1
	3	MBTI Group 2
	8	Ch. 6 Neo-Freudian Theories: Relevant Research
	10	Ch. 7 Trait Approach
	15	Ch. 8 Trait Approach: Relevant Research
	17	Exam 2 (Chapters 5 - 8)
	22	MBTI Results
	24	Ch. 9 Biological Approach
	29	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
April	31	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
	5	Ch. 9 Biological Approach
	7	Ch. 10 Biological Approach: Relevant Research
	12	Ch. 11 Humanistic Approach
	14	Ch. 12 Humanistic Approach: Relevant Research
	19	Exam 3 (Chapters 9 – 12)
	21	Ch. 13 Behavioral/Social Learning Approach
	26	Ch. 13 Behavioral/Social Learning Approach
	28	Ch. 14 Behavioral/Social Learning Approach: Relevant Research
May	3	Ch. 15 Cognitive Approach
	5	Ch. 16 Cognitive Approach: Relevant Research
	10	Final Exam (Chapters 13 - 16)