

## PSY 431W Section 2: Personality (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2007

**Location:** AB IV Rom 313

**Class Meeting Times:** Mon, Wed, Fri 12:00-12:50 a.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Ronald Davis **Office Location:** Smith Kirkley Room 322

**Instructor Contact Information:** Phone: 936-294-3285 (office); 936- 294-1174 or 1-866-BEARKAT—ask for Psychology Dept; (fax) 936-294-3798 E-Mail: [rld004@shsu.edu](mailto:rld004@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and by appt.

**Course Description:** In this course a study is made of major theories of Personality. The biological and social factors in the development and functioning of personality will be considered.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss the fundamental concepts of the major theories of personality
- Explain behavior by applying the fundamental concepts of the major theories of personality
- Compare the major theories of personality in terms of their being amenable to falsification through empirical research
- Identify methods used by the major theories of personality to assess and intervene in various forms of maladjustment

**Required Text:** Rykman, Richard M. (2008). *Theories of Personality* 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Belmont, California: Thomson Wadsworth.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be recorded by use of seating chart and your signature on a class roster. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Please see exam and grading plan below. Attendance will comply with SHSU policy, specifically: A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor.

**Exams and Grading Plan:** Three 50 question exams and a 100 questions final exam comprised of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions that will cover the text, lecture and any other materials assigned by the instructor for that particular exam.

Group Project: (Adapted from the idea of Dr. Melissa Himelein from the University of Northern California)  
1. Choose a group (groups must have 3 or 4 persons); 2. Choose a biographical movie (i.e. some good ones might be: *The Aviator* (2004); *The Doors* (1991); *Monster* (2004); *Bill* (1981); *A Beautiful Mind* (2005); *The Three Faces of Eve* (1957); *Good Night, Good Luck* (2005); *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980); *Capote* (2005); *The Jesse Owens Story* (1984); *Man on the Moon* (1999); *Motorcycle Diaries* (2004); *American Splendor* (2003); *Frida* (2002); *Malcolm X* (1992); *Hotel Rwanda* (2004); *Lenny* (1974); *Mrs. Brown* (1997); *Walk the Line* (2005); *Ghandi* (1982); *Private Parts* (1997). Choose as soon as possible and let me know your choice. Only two groups per movie and first come, first served. 3. Watch the movie together and discuss the concepts from the text that you wish to apply. 4. Meet again and put together the draft of your presentation (preferably using Powerpoint) to be presented to the class. It should involve the following: a. A general introduction (accomplishments, reasons for being famous or infamous); b. significant life events (family stressors, unusual life circumstances, unique or significant personality or behavioral characteristics); c. A description of the personality concept or concepts that you are going to apply to the individual and; d. How the particular personality concept or concepts you have applied to the individual make your subject more understandable. Your presentation should take no more than 15 minutes (approximately 4 minutes per section of your presentation. Grading criteria: inclusion of all requested content; accuracy of concept description and application to your subject; attempts to engage the class (through visual aids, creative content) and; how well the presentation was organized. Did it run smoothly? Was there a smooth transition from topic to topic. All members of the group should take a part in the presentation. Points will be subtracted for those members who do not participate. I would suggest that each group member take one of the topics outlined above to present. At the time of your presentation I will need a copy of your powepoint and your self assessment of the effort you put into the presentation

***Presentation Writing Component:*** Each member of the group will complete a 2.5 to 3 page paper that outlines the points that are presented in the presentation. The instructor will provide a more detailed instruction sheet regarding what should be contained in this paper. These papers will be due one week following your group class presentation.

Autobiographical sketch and Analysis; ( 2 papers)

***The Autbiographical sketch:*** (This is a series of assignments is adapted from the assignment adapted by Dr. Kimberly Eretzian Smiries, a Psychology professor who teaches at Emmanuel College and presented in the syllabus of Dr. Catherine Deering from Clayton State University. ) You are to write a 3-5 page paper about yourself that answers the following questions: a. A description of what you consider to be your major personality traits b. Your style of interacting with others in stressful situations; c. What is it about your personality that you believe makes you unique. What others would likely say in describing you apart from other people that they know well and; d. Circumstances in your life and family that you believe led you to be the person you are today. This material will be read only by me and the original will be returned to you. Some exceptional papers I may want to keep as a model for future classes. In that case I will request you supply me a de-identified copy DUE BY OCTOBER 1

***Alternative to Autobiographical sketch:*** If you feel uncomfortable in providing an autobiographical sketch for analysis you may select an autobiography of someone who interests you. The paper requirements will be the same. However, if you plan to do this please check with me and present me with the sources you plan to use. You cannot use movies that are presented for the group presentations.

***Application of Theory Paper:*** Apply two major theories in your text to your autobiography. You should do this in two papers that are each approximately 2-3 pages in length. They should include: What theory you are applying. What specific concept of that theory you are applying to your personality traits; Describe how the concepts of the theory are applicable to the traits that you presented in your autobiographical sketch; Provide specific examples of how the concepts relate to your personality. All papers must be written in APA style. We will discuss APA style in class. DUE BY NOVEMBER 5th

Points will be awarded as follows:

Exams = 300 points (100 points each)

Final Exam = 200 points

Attendance = 25 points

Group Project = 50 points

Group Project Paper = 50 points

Autobiographical sketch = 50 points

Psychological Analysis of Autobiographical sketch = 75 points

Total = 750 points

A = 90% of 750

B = 80-89% of 750

C = 70 to 79% of 750

D = 60 to 69% of 750

F = below 60% of 750

**Make-up exams** are discouraged. A make-up will be offered for only one missed exam and will be comprised of 20 short answer and/or essay questions. A make-up exam may only be taken on Monday, Wednesday or Friday by prior arrangement with the instructor.

**Extra Credit:** *Extra Credit will not be provided upon request.* During the semester there will be three to five in-class assignments for which up to 10 points may be awarded for each assignment. These will not be announced in advance. In order to successfully obtain the maximum number of points you will need to have read the chapter in advance related to that day's lecture.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE:** no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

**Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Study Tips:** Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE CALENDAR (Assignment and test dates subject to change)**

8/20 Ch.1	8/22 Ch 1	8/24 Ch 2	8/27 Ch 2	8/29 Ch 3	8/31 Ch 3	9/3 NC	9/5 Ch 4	9/7 Ch 4	9/10 Rev.	9/12 Ex 1	9/14 Ch 5	9/17 Ch 5	9/19 Ch 6
9/21 Ch 6	9/24 Ch 7	9/26 Ch 7	9/28 Ch 8	10/1 Ch 8	10/3 Ch 9	10/5 Ch 9	10/8 Ch10	10/10 Ch 10	10/12 Rev	10/15 Ex 2	10/17 Ch 11	10/19 Ch 11	10/22 Ch. 12
10/24	10/26	10/29	10/31	11/2	11/5	11/7	11/9	11/12	11/14	11/16	11/19	11/21	11/23

Ch 12	Ch. 13	Ch 13	Ch 14	Ch 14	Ch 15	Ch 15	Ch 15	Rev	Ex 3	Ch 16	Ch. 17	NC	NC
11/26 Ch. 17	11/28 Ch. 17	11/30 MU	12/1 MU	12/3 MU	12/5 LCD	12/10 Finals							

10/10—Last day to drop without an F

10/1—Autobiographical Sketch due 11/5—Application of theory paper due

Presentation schedule begins 10/1—only one presentation per class period (15 minutes in length)—No presentations on review or exam dates.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. During class, no electronic communication equipment is permissible unless required by a disabling condition. This means no cell phones use; no text messaging; no audio equipment or earpieces during class or exams. **THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**