

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
 Department of Psychology and Philosophy
 Psychology 431.01: Personality (Summer I 2008)
 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:00-9:50
 Class meetings in Academic Building-IV, Room 205

Instructor: Audrey K. Miller, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12 and by appointment (Note: Due to potentially unforeseeable faculty responsibilities, please confirm in advance my availability for **any** office meeting.)

Course Description: This course concerns an introduction to the development, testability, and evaluation of personality theory. Specific personality theories, or conceptual systems aiming to explain individual differences in human behavior, are described and compared.

Specific Course Objectives:

- 1) Learning principals of various personality theories
- 2) Learning how to scientifically test and evaluate personality theories

Required Textbook: Ryckman, R. M. (2008). *Theories of personality* (9th ed.). Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Instructor's Expectations:

- 1) *Prior to Class:* Read the assigned textbook chapter, so that you are an informed class participant and may ask any questions about the material in class.
- 2) *About Class:* Attend, be awake, attentive, interactive, and respectful of others (lest you be asked to leave). Be informed that this instructor takes the University's attendance policy seriously (i.e., grade penalty after 3 hours missed). Your attendance will be documented by your signature on daily attendance sheets, distributed at random times. You will not be allowed to sign attendance sheets before or after their circulation. In this course, you are allowed to miss **2 DAYS WITHOUT GRADE PENALTY**. However, be very aware, **YOUR GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DAY YOU ARE ABSENT**. Also, be aware that if additional absences are officially excused by the Dean's office, I may observe them. However, in the interest of consistency and fairness, **NO** excuses submitted directly to me will be observed. You are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate if you are absent for any reason.
- 3) *About Exams and Assignments for Credit.* You will receive a zero (0) if you are absent for an exam or if you fail to submit an assignment according to schedule.
- 4) *Academic Dishonesty* in any form – e.g., forging names on attendance sheets, cheating on exams, plagiarism, collusion (see University policy and/or ask me if definitions are needed) – will guarantee you a zero (0) in the course and will likely result in formal disciplinary actions. Any writing is subject to being submitted to turnitin.com, which detects plagiarism.
- 5) *Extra Credit*, a maximum of 10 points, may be earned during the course by participation in research studies and mock therapy as posted on the department's PerP system. If you would prefer not to participate in research or mock therapy, you may alternately submit a 3-page written analysis of any of the personality theories we discuss, in the style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition*. An analysis should discuss the theory's comprehensiveness, precision/testability, parsimony, empirical validity, heuristic value, and applied value. Each submitted analysis may earn up to 5 points, the bar for superior quality.

Tentative Course/Examination Schedule

This course is arranged according to the organization of your textbook. Textbook readings should be completed prior to each respective class. The schedule is subject to change based on class progress. Three examinations will be tied to information discussed in your textbook and/or in class. You will need to provide your own #2 pencils and “Scan-Tron” answer sheets for examinations.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part I. <i>Introduction to the Course and to the Discipline</i>
Tuesday 6.3.08	Chapter 1: Personality and the Scientific Outlook
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part II. <i>Psychoanalytic and Neoanalytic Perspectives</i>
Wednesday 6.4.08	Chapter 2: Freud’s Psychoanalytic Theory
Thursday 6.5.08	Chapter 3: Jung’s Analytical Psychology
Friday 6.6.08	Chapter 4: Adler’s Individual Psychology
Monday 6.9.08	Chapter 5: Horney’s Social and Cultural Psychoanalysis
Tuesday 6.10.08	Chapter 6: Erikson’s Psychoanalytic Ego Psychology
Wednesday 6.11.08	Exam 1: Chapters 1-6
Thursday 6.12.08	Chapter 7: Kohut’s Self Psychology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part III. <i>Trait Perspectives</i>
Friday 6.13.08	Chapter 8: Allport’s Trait Theory
Monday 6.16.08	Chapter 9: Cattell’s Structure-Based Systems Theory
Tuesday 6.17.08	Chapter 10: Eysenck’s Biological Typology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part IV. <i>Cognitive Perspectives</i>
Wednesday 6.18.08	Chapter 11: Kelly’s Theory of Personal Constructs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part V. <i>Humanistic/Existential Perspectives</i>
Thursday 6.19.08	Chapter 12: Maslow’s Self-Actualization Position
Friday 6.20.08	Exam 2: Chapters 7-12
Monday 6.23.08	Chapter 13: Rogers’s Person-Centered Theory
Tuesday 6.24.08	Chapter 14: May’s Existential-Analytic Position
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VI. <i>Social-Behavioristic Perspectives</i>
Wednesday 6.25.08	Chapter 15: Skinner’s Operant Analysis
Thursday 6.26.08	Chapter 16: Rotter’s Expectancy-Reinforcement Value Model
Friday 6.27.08	Chapter 17: Bandura’s Social-Cognitive Theory
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VII. <i>The Role of the Grand Theories in Contemporary Personality Psychology</i>
Monday 6.30.08	Chapter 18: Theory and Research in Contemporary Personality Psychology
Tuesday 7.1.08	Exam 3: Chapters 13-18

Writing to Learn

It is this instructor’s strong belief that reflective writing allows students to deeply process course material. Because the summer session will move quickly and is therefore not conducive to a well-developed course treatise, you will instead complete and turn in **daily reflection-log entry**, composed during the last 5 minutes of each class period. Your daily reflections will not be evaluated on the form of your thinking or writing (in fact, you are encouraged to write freely and without judgment of your own thoughts)... but rather on whether or not it is clear that you ARE THINKING about course material. You may reflect upon anything that comes to mind as you write – the reading and lecture material are particularly relevant, though writings begun or completed prior to class will not be accepted. For example, entries may include summarizing/integrating essential content, facilitating studying; reacting to theoretical material; evaluating the scientific strength of theories; and/or, applying content to observations of yourself or your daily life.

Grades

Final course grades will be computed by averaging the three examination grades and the reflection log grade; that is, each of these four grades is worth 25% of the final course grade. Each examination grade will be determined by the percentage of correct scores earned by the student; to account and correct for examination difficulty, students' percentage scores will be curved upward such that the highest score in the class receives 100%. Consistent with attendance policy, I should receive at least 16 daily reflection-log entries from you (i.e., material will be presented on 18 days, and you are allowed to miss 2 class periods). Scoring for each daily reflection log will be as follows:

- Check-plus = 6 points: Reflects superior processing of course material
- Check = 4 points: Reflects acceptable/average processing of material
- Check-minus = 2 points: Reflects sub-par processing or frank misunderstanding of material
- No grade = 0 points: Reflects that log entry was not turned in

Ninety-six (96) points may be earned for the entirety of 16 entries to the reflection log, and 4 points will be added to this total (for a possible 100 points) if at least 16 daily entries have been submitted to me.

After averaging the 4 grades, up to 10 points will be added to the final course grade dependent on extra credit points earned by each student. Note that extra credit may not be earned or submitted after the last regular class period, Monday June 30, 2008.

The final course grade rubric is as follows:

- A = 89.5-100%
- B = 79.5-89.49%
- C = 60.5-79.49%
- D = 59.5-69.49%
- F = Less than 59.59%

Final Notes on University Policies

Per University policy, **students with a disability** that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Per Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code, an institution of higher education excuses 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. *Per University policy 861001*, a student for whom this section is relevant should present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe within which the missed assignments/examinations are to be completed.