

Psychology of Personality (PSY 317)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-3:15pm

Henderson 207

Fall 2013

3 credits

Instructor: Jennifer L. Schroeder, PhD

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Phone: 903-886-5200

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm, Binnion 101; or by appointment

Course description: This course is designed to introduce students to the various approaches to the study of personality. A consideration of personality's determinant, development, and assessment form the framework of the course.

Course Objectives: The course's primary objective is to facilitate your conceptual skills and development regarding the main schools of thought in personality theory.

Textbook: Frager, R. & Fadiman, J. (2013). *Personality and Personal Growth (Seventh edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

Requirements & Grading: Students are expected to complete all readings and attend each class prepared to ask questions and/or contribute to class discussions. Course grades will be determined by performance in the following areas:

1. **Exams** - Exams will constitute a portion of the grade. There will be three exams worth 100 points each. Exams will cover information from the book, lecture, and activities. Exams are taken on the day listed below in the course schedule. Exams may be made up only if you have a university-documented excuse and the final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor.
Total: 300 points
2. **In-Class Activities** - Seven in-class activities will be distributed in class and are due during the class period in which they are assigned. Each activity will be worth 10 points and will vary in terms of format. For example, some may be quizzes over the reading while others may be written responses to discussion questions. These activities cannot be made up if you miss when they are assigned unless you have a university-documented excuse.
Total: 70 points
3. **Psychobiography** - Apply the theories of personality that have been covered in the course to an understanding of one person. The person must be a real person, not a fictional or mythological figure, and cannot be someone covered in the textbook. Base a brief paper and poster on a published biographical or autobiographical book, in addition to the text. Your paper and poster should follow the format of the illustrative biographies given in the text and be detailed in your discussion of how theoretical concepts apply. There is no need to explain the theoretical concepts in the paper or poster. (You may presume that the reader knows the theories.) Focus on how the theoretical concepts apply to the one person

you are trying to understand. Cite specific details from the biography to support your interpretations.

Cite references that you use for direct quotations and for factual material. Ordinarily, only two references will be necessary: the biography (or autobiography) and the text. If you wish to do more detailed reading about personality theory or about the biography, you may include more references, but that is not necessary or expected. The purpose of this paper and poster is to demonstrate that you understand the theories well enough to apply them appropriately and with insight.

One brief progress report will be collected:

Progress Report: List the biographical source (book) you will be using for the paper and be sure to cite it using APA format. In two pages (which can be bulleted but must include some level of detail), summarize your thoughts about how the material covered so far (chapters 1-4) applies to this person. Worth 20 points.

The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you are thinking critically about the theories prior to the end of the course. As a result, *no credit will be given for progress reports that are more than a day late, and those that are a day late will be docked one letter grade.*

Poster: The final poster is due on 12/5, and you should be prepared to present selected parts of it informally in class. Text within the poster must be typed, not handwritten. Late posters will not be accepted. Worth 50 points.

Paper: The paper is due on 12/5 and should be 5 to 10 pages in length (Longer papers are acceptable. Shorter papers will not be penalized for length, but be sure that you are discussing theories adequately, which is difficult to do in a paper less than 5 pages.) The paper should be more detailed than the poster and you will submit the paper to TurnItIn by the due date. The paper must follow APA format and be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. The cover page and reference page do not count as part of your page limit. Worth 100 points.

Total: 170 points.

Evaluation:

Exams (3 worth 100 pts. each)	=	300 points
In-Class Activities (worth 10 pts. each)	=	70 points
Psychobiography		
Progress Report	=	20 points
Poster	=	50 points
Paper	=	<u>100 points</u>
Total points possible	=	540 points

Grades	A	=	90% and above
	B	=	80-89%
	C	=	70-79%
	D	=	60-69%
	F	=	< 60%

Student Conduct and Absences: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” (see current Student Guidebook). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary processes described in the Guidebook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me.

Students are expected to attend all classes unless they have excused absences as described in the Student’s Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Academics). When students are absent from class they are responsible for making up the work covered in class and speaking with me about these arrangements. More than 3 absences during the semester is considered excessive. “It is the prerogative of the faculty to drop students from courses in which they have obtained excessive absences as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, faculty recommend through the department head to the appropriate college dean that a student be dropped from a class. The faculty member will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending a drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Records Office” (Systems Policy 13.2).

Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop attending the class for *any* reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

PSY 317 Class Schedule

****Please be aware that this syllabus will serve as a guideline for the course and is subject to change as necessary.**

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
8/27	Introduction/Overview	Introduction
8/29	Freud	Chapter 1
9/3		
9/5	Jung	Chapter 2
9/10		
9/12	Adler	Chapter 3
9/17		
9/19	Horney	Chapter 4
9/24		
9/26	Exam #1	Intro, Ch. 1-4
10/1	Feminist Approaches	Chapter 5
10/3	Psychobiography progress report due	
10/8	Erickson	Chapter 6
10/10		
10/15	James	Chapter 7
10/17		
10/22	Skinner	Chapter 8
10/24		
10/29	Bandura & Beck	Chapter 9
10/31		
11/5	Exam #2	Ch. 5-9
11/7	Kelly	Chapter 10
11/12		
11/14	Rogers	Chapter 11
11/19		
11/21	Maslow	Chapter 12
11/26		
11/28	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
12/3	Zen	Chapter 14
12/5	Posters & Papers due	
12/10	Final Exam (1:15-3:15pm)	