

**Course Syllabus  
Fall 2015**

**Psy317: Personality of Psychology**

Section 001, MW 10am-10:50am., Class room, HEN 206  
F: ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

**Instructor:** Ida Mohebpour

**Office Hours:** By appointment only, please email me for appointments.

**Email:** [Ida.Mohebpour@tamuc.edu](mailto:Ida.Mohebpour@tamuc.edu)

\*When sending me an e-mail, please be sure to include "PSY 317" in the subject line. I will not respond to any emails that do not have "PSY 317" in the subject line.

**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.

**University Closing Due to Inclement Weather**

University closing information will be posted on the web at <http://www.tamuc.edu>. Information will be forwarded to radio station KETR (88.9 FM); Dallas-area television stations KDFW (Channel 4), KXAS (Channel 5), and WFAA (Channel 8); and, Tyler/Longview-area television station KLTV (Channel 7).

**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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Student Conduct:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran

status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments:**

1. **Attendance:** The student is expected to attend all class sessions. University guidelines will be followed (See 2005-2006 *Undergraduate Student's Guidebook*). Only University approved excuses (in writing) are accepted reasons to make up assignments, activities, or tests.
  - A. The attendance policy is outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog and *Student's Guidebook*.
    - i. Students are expected to attend every class period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period.
    - ii. It is the prerogative of the professor to drop students from courses in which they have accrued excessive **absences (3)** as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, the student can be dropped from the course or dropped a grade point. The faculty member will document absences and will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending the drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Registrar's Office. Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from the university are responsible for initiating this action.
    - iii. **If you miss more than five (3) classes you will receive a drop in letter grade no matter what your average may be.**
  - B. At 2 pm, I will begin taking attendance. Once I have finished taking attendance I will close the classroom door. If you are not in class by the time the door closes, you WILL be counted absent.
    1. You should always attend class. Much of the material covered in class may NOT be found in your text. I plan on incorporating videos, class discussions and class activities into each lecture. Please note that all questions on the examinations will be taken from the text, as well as the classroom lectures, videos, and discussions.
    2. If you miss class, (and therefore miss the lecture notes), it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to obtain the notes. You will need to borrow class notes from a classmate.
    3. On average, you will be expected to read two chapters per week. Do not wait until the night before the exam to start your reading. It is advised to stay on top of the readings and to read the chapters before each class that has the corresponding lecture material.
2. **Participation:** This element is essential to your grade in both the class and lab sections of this course. Students will be expected to contribute to class discussions regularly. I can understand the reasoning behind feeling shy in this class. However, we are all adults, and as such, we should be able to have intelligent discussions about the subject material without any immature distractions. Students will not be forced into speaking out in class, but should be aware that developing the ability to contribute to discussions is very important to a successful college career. There's no better time to learn and practice this skill than now. *Carpe Diem!* With that being said, there is no need for individuals to go

into specific detail about, for example, their own sexual encounters. I encourage you, if you wish, to share your experiences *tastefully* with the class, or use them to aid in presenting your point of view regarding discussion topics.

**NO SIDE TALKING DURING CLASS!!!!** Turn off all cell phones and pagers.

**Students who fail to do so will be asked to leave the class. If cell phones and pagers are being used they will be taken up by me during the class.**

3. **Student Behavior:** My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. Therefore, there is no need for me to devote much to this section other than the following:
- A. All pagers, cell phones, electronic games, radios, CD players, or other devices must be turned off when you enter the classroom.
  - B. Immaturity will **NOT** be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, or is disrespectful to ANYONE, he/she will be asked to leave.

***“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)***

4. **Academic Honesty:** The *Student’s Guidebook* addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions.

**5. Evaluation and Assessment:**

<u>Method</u>	<u>Total Percentage</u>
Two scheduled tests (2 worth 100 pts. Each)	50%
Attendance/ assignments (Discussions)	15%
Psychobiography	35%
Progress Report (20 points)	= 5%
Poster (50 points)	= 10%
Paper (100 points)	= <u>20%</u>
Grades	
A	= 90% and above
B	= 80-89%
C	= 70-79%
D	= 60-69%
F	= < 60%

→ If you are having problems in class, please come and talk to me immediately. I will be better able to help you if you come to me early. Do not come to me at the end of the semester, unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it. I cannot randomly change

grades because of “guilt trips”. However, I adjust the distribution for the entire class to ensure reasonable grading standards.

**Tests 50% grade (200 points):** There will be *two* examinations, total 200 points. They will cover materials discussed in class (from textbook, lecture materials, special assignments). Exam format may be true/false, multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer. **No makeup exams will be given.**

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** I mean this. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of **verifiable** medical or legal excuses. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors’ notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor. If no valid excuse (in the opinion of the professor) is presented your exam grade is a zero.

### **Exam Policies:**

- You must take your exams during the time stated for your section of this class. Failure to do so will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the exam.
- Be on time for exams. If you come late to an exam, and anyone has already left the exam, you will NOT be allowed to take the exam, as per University Regulations.
- Bring TWO No. 2 pencils and scantrons (green or brown) with you to each exam. I will not bring any if you forget.
- I will not tolerate cheating. Severe penalty will be given to those who cheat.

**Psychobiography 35% grade** - 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:



Mon 11/9 & Wed 11/11	Chapter 11
Mon 11/16 & Wed 11/18	Chapter 12
Mon 11/23 & Wed 11/25	Chapter 13
Mon 11/30 & Wed 12/2	Chapter 14, 15 ( <b>Poster and Paper DUE</b> )
Mon 12/7	Chapter 15
<b>Wednesday 12/9</b>	<b>Final Exam, Chapter 11-19</b>

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