

PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY (Psyc 351) SYLLABUS - SPRING 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jahna Ashlyn,

Office Hours: LS 118-D, Th 2-3:50 pm

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Course Web Page: <http://courses.csusm.edu/psyc334ja> (no Password needed), no Blackboard

Required Text: *Personality Psychology: Domains ...*, Larsen & Buss (3rd, this edition) **Not on reserve**

Also Required: Four Grade Master model 600, no. 27820 or 25420 test forms, (cashier @ bookstore)

Course Objectives: This course is primarily a lecture course, which covers eight different perspectives used to explain personality: psychoanalytical, neoanalytical, biological, learning, cognitive, trait, humanistic, and interactive perspectives to understanding human sexuality. After covering each of those perspectives, special topics, such as gender differences, relationships, and health issues as they relate to personality, will be examined.

Underlying themes stressed throughout the various perspectives and subtopics are: the relative contribution of genetics and biology vs the environment, those aspects of the personality that are stable vs. those that are prone to change across time, the ways in which intelligence contributes to the formation of personality, several of the standardized personality assessment measures (i.e., self-report rating scales and questionnaires) and techniques (structured interview, behavioral observation), various methods of studying personality (i.e., research design, cohort, cross-sectional, longitudinal), and personality disorders.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to identify the strengths and shortcomings of each of the theoretical perspectives, as well as how they complement each other.

Exams/Grading: There will be three non comprehensive midterms, plus a comprehensive final exam (with all new questions, equally emphasizing all topics/chapters; see schedule below for exam dates). Each exam, including the final, are closed-note, closed-book, consist of 40 multiple choice questions, and require **Blue-grey and white Grade Master form 27820 or 25420 test forms (and only those types)**, plus answering 3-4 out of 5-6 short essay questions. **Each exam, including the final is worth 1/3 of your overall grade** (no, there is no "class participation" part of your grade). If you take all four exams your lowest test score, **including that of the final exam**, can be dropped. **Your third midterm is given the last class meeting before the final exam and scores will not be available before you take the final.** So, if you decide not to take the final and use that as the grade that is dropped, it is at your own risk. **Note:** The curve that is used to assign course grades is based on students' best three exams, which can only be determined after the final. **Therefore, it is impossible to determine what your course grade would be if you were to not take the final. If you miss an exam, you do not get to throw out an exam – no exceptions.** Bring an extra test form (for big mistakes!), #2 pencils and a good clean eraser. **No kidding** – none of these will be provided, and if your eraser smears the test form the machine may mark it wrong. Always include your full last name (the one you used when you enrolled) on everything you turn in, and on exams include your test version if specified (either paper color or version number) next to your name. You do not need to write (or bubble in) your ID number on your test form or question sheet.

Note: It is strictly against university policy for a professor to change a grade for any reason other than a clerical error.

Please, do not try to bargain for your grade or ask your professor to change your grade. It's against university policy.

Don't Be Late: If you arrive after the first student has finished and left the room, you will not be able to take the exam, no exceptions.

No makeup exams (midterms or final) **will be given for any reason** (even emergencies); nor will exams be given earlier or later than the date/times scheduled for the rest of the class.

Also, other than throwing out an exam there are no extra credit or "make-up papers/projects".

Also, you may contact Disabled Student Services for academic assistance 750-4905, if you qualify.

Grading is on a very "friendly" curve. If you get 90% of the "class unit" you will get an A. The class unit is the average of the top 10% of the scores in the class: If there are 40 students – the average of the top 4 scores. If you get between 80-89% you get a B, 70-79% a C, 60-69% a D, and <60 an F; '+' and '-' are given for x7-x9 and x0-x2 respectively. So, everyone can get an A, and no one has to get a poor grade. Your instructor will do all the calculations for you and post the scores on the course web according to your special ID if you sign a waiver on the first exam. The default special ID is the last five digits of your Red ID number (not your social security number), but you can make up a new five digit ID next to the waiver signature. If you do not sign the waiver you can find out your score at the end of the next class.

Exam scores for midterms 1 & 2 are posted on the course web page by the next class meeting following the exam. **Exam scores/grades will not be emailed, faxed, phoned, etc. to students**, no exceptions. **Scores for midterm 3 and the final as well as course grades are delivered by grade cards only.**

Material Covered on the Exams. Most but not all of the material on the exams is in the text. You are responsible for all

material covered in lecture including videotapes and examples via class discussion. Study guides for each exam including the final, are available for download from the course webpage (there are no practice exams, but there are some practice questions w/ answers on the 1st study guide which are representative of your instructor's exam question style). **Some exams questions may not have been referenced in the study guide.** The final is all new questions and emphasizes all topics/chapters equally. Your instructor cannot email or print out and give these supplements to you. The outlines are close to but not exactly the same as your instructor's Power Point slides – you are responsible for any differences.

Returning Exams: The test forms and test questions will not be returned to you. You can look at a copy of the test after the class meeting only in office hours, but you will not be allowed to keep or copy (by Xerox or by hand) an exam.

Attendance: Your instructor does not take attendance (so no, attendance is not part of your course grade).

In-class decorum (not to be insulting, but some people have no clue): Please, be diligent about turning off noisemakers (cell phones, pagers, etc.). Once class time begins, your instructor needs to get lecture started, so please reserve individualized questions for office hours. Also, please be aware of potentially disruptive behavior such as having private conversations, the noise of “preparation for departure” behavior near the end of scheduled class meetings, it's distracting to everyone.

Office Hours/Email/Messages, if you have questions that you don't want to ask during class, you may ask the instructor during office hours (top of previous page). Regarding email, because so many class resources are provided (e.g., outlines, study guides) some students get the idea that they don't need to go to class and just show up for exams. Those students tend to do a lot of emailing right before exams asking to be “caught up on things” via email. Sorry, it's not an online class. If you can't make it to go to class, you should find a classmate you can contact for updates, etc.

Below is the Course Schedule. The material will be covered in this order and **the Exam dates are definite.**

Exams will focus on the material covered in lecture, including all slides and videotape segments presented since the last exam (from the beginning of the course for the first exam) up to and including the lecture prior to the first midterm; and all of the chapters/readings related to the topics covered in lecture during that time frame. When a chapter appears in the schedule below without specific page numbers, it means read the entire chapter. If a new topic is started in lecture prior to an exam, you are responsible for all the material in the corresponding chapter of the text.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

Note: DON'T BE LATE for exams! If you arrive after the first student leaves, you cannot take the exam, no exceptions. There are study guides for every exam. There are no review sessions.

Date **There are no review sessions**

Jan. 22	Orientation: Intro to Personality and methodology, Larsen & Buss, Ch. 1
Jan. 29	Personality Assessment & Research, Ch. 2
Feb. 5	Psychoanalytic Approach, Ch.9
Feb. 12	Neoanalytic and Contemporary Psychoanalytic theories, Ch.10
Feb. 19, (~5:00 Exam)	1 st half: Begin Biological Approach, Ch.s 6 pp. 172-186, Ch. 7 all, Ch. 8 pp. 242-248 & Ch. 3 pp. 72-76; 2nd half: MIDTERM 1, DON'T BE LATE! Ch's 1, 2, 9, 10
Feb. 26	Finish Biological Approach; begin Behavioral/Learning Approach, Lecture Outlines only
Mar. 5	No Class (this class only, go to your other classes)
Mar. 12	Finish Behavioral/Learning; begin Cognition & Personality, Ch. 12 pp. 402-410; & Ch. 14 all
Mar. 19	More Cognition & Personality, Ch. 12 pp. 402-410; & Ch. 14 all
Mar. 26	Trait/Skill Approach, Ch. 3 except pp. 72-76; also Ch. 5 136-152
Apr. 2	Spring Break, NO CLASS!!
Apr. 9, (~5:00 Exam)	1 st half: Begin Humanistic/Spiritual Approach, Ch. 11; 2nd half: MIDTERM 2, DON'T BE LATE! covers Biological – Trait Skill Perspective, Ch's 3, 5-8 (parts), 12, 14
Apr. 16	Continue Humanistic/Spiritual Approach, Ch. 11
Apr. 23	Interactionist Approach, Ch. 4 pp. 94-107
Apr. 30	Gender & Personality, Ch. 15 except pp 506-511, also Ch. 16 all, & Ch. 8 pp. 259-269
May 7	Personality and Health, Ch. 18
May 14	MIDTERM 3, no lecture: DON'T BE LATE! Covers Humanist Perspective – Health & Personality, Ch's 4 (parts), 8 (parts), 11, 15 (most), 16, 18
May 21, Th 4:00 pm	Exam is Comprehensive: covers all topics/chapters; equal emphasis on all sections; same length, format, level of detail as midterms; all new questions. Don't be Late!!

~ = approximately, if it starts earlier, you are responsible for being there.

* In case of campus closure, cover material (reading) as scheduled. A missed exam will be given the next time class meets. If the first meeting back after closure is a scheduled exam date, the exam will be given as scheduled.