

# ***Personality Psychology Course Syllabus***

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## **Course Information**

PSY 4331.501 – Personality Psychology

Fall 2013

Mondays 7:00-9:45, GR 4.428

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## **Professor Contact Information**

Professor: Dr. Samuel Ehrenreich (pronounced “Aaron-rike”)

Phone Number: 972-883-2309

Email (best method of contact): [sam@utdallas.edu](mailto:sam@utdallas.edu)

Office Location: GR4.110a

Office Hours: Mondays 4:00 – 5:00 or by appointment

Other Information: Email is the fastest and most reliable way to get a hold of me. **Please put “Personality Psychology” in the subject line, and email from your UTD email address.**

## **Teaching Assistant Contact Information**

TA: Jesse Poucher

Email: [jwp082000@utdallas.edu](mailto:jwp082000@utdallas.edu)

Available to meet by appointment

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## **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or other restrictions**

PSY 2301 – Introduction to Psychology

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## **Course Description**

Why do we think and behave the way that we do? This course will provide an overview of Personality Psychology, including the prevailing theories and research methods in the field, to explain what makes people the way that they are (and how science sorts this all out).

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## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe, analyze and compare the historical development and basic concepts of psychodynamic, trait, biological, humanistic, behavioral, and cognitive perspectives on personality
- 1.2 Recognize and identify research that these theories have generated and upon which they have been built
- 1.3 Identify the clinical applications of the major groups of personality theories
- 2.1 Apply one personality theory to an analysis of a person’s behavior, thinking patterns, or emotional reactions
- 2.2 Explain and apply basic statistical analyses and employ critical thinking to evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from their use in personality research
- 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, stereotypes, and scholarly literature in personality research

4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in an essay designed to assess integration of the material discussed in class and read in the text

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## Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Funder, David C., The Personality Puzzle. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Norton.
  2. Additional assigned readings provided throughout the semester **via eLearning: to be announced**
  3. Students will respond to in-class activities using a response clicker, the Response Card RF – LCD (made by Turning Point). These can be purchased in the UTD bookstore.
  4. Each exam will require a Pearson Scantron #229630 (pink form) and a #2 pencil, both available in the UTD bookstore and free at the off-campus bookstore. **You are required to provide your own scantron for each examine.**
  5. eLearning will be an important resource throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through eLearning and supplemental readings will be provided. Make sure you have access to eLearning.
  6. No electronic devices—with the exception of the Response Clicker—are permitted during class (**this includes laptops and cell phones**).
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## Grading Policy

Final course grade will be based on the following criteria. Grades will be reported as percentages and will correspond to the letter grades listed below.

Class Participation:	20%
Exams 1, 2 & 3:	60% combined
Activities:	20% combined

A+: 100-98	A: 97-94	A-: 90-93
B+: 89-87	B: 86-83	B-: 82-80
C+: 79-77	C: 76-73	C-: 72-70
D+: 69-67	D: 66-63	D-: 62-60
F: Below 60		

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## Course & Instructor Policy

### Class Participation:

Classroom attendance is required and necessary for success in this course. Lecture material and classroom activities will supplement material covered in the reading. The Turning Point Response Card will be used to conduct in-class questions, which will represent the majority of your Class Participation grade. Your Class Participation grade will also be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, as well as coming to class. Two specific rules about participation:

- Students can miss up to **two (2)** classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. **There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, regardless of the reason**, so use your freebies wisely. I frequently hear from students (frequently enough in fact, that I've added it to this syllabus) after missing the first two classes that they had an excellent reason for the third class they

missed, such as illness, family emergency, or car trouble. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise.

- Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first two missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason (this does not apply to Exams; see below).
- Clicker Credit can only be obtained by using the Clicker (i.e. you cannot write the answer on a piece of paper and turn it in). If you forget your clicker/it runs out of batteries, etc., you can use that as one of your free days.

### Exams:

Three non-cumulative exams will cover all material since the previous test. The exams will focus on material covered in the textbook and lectures, however material from supplemental readings and classroom activities will also be fair game. Tests will consist primarily of multiple choice questions along with a few short answer questions.

You must be present for all exams. Make-up exams will be given **only** if: (1) you were seriously ill with verifying documentation, (2) you were unavoidably detained the day and time of the exam, or (3) you made arrangements with the professor prior to the exam for an urgent matter (e.g., a funeral). In any of these cases, **you must notify the professor in advance of the time of the exam (even if that simply means leaving a voicemail)**. Appropriate documentation will be required prior to taking the exam. Missing an exam for any other reason will result in a "0" for that test. For an approved absence with proper documentation, you will have 1 week to make up the test. It is your responsibility to get in contact with the Professor about arranging the make-up. Keep in mind that make-up exams are intended to be more comprehensive to compensate for additional study time. Make-up exams will not necessarily be multiple choice format.

If you are concerned about an exam grade, please contact the Professor within one week of the grades posting to schedule a time to discuss the issue.

### Homework Assignments:

Four writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Each essay will address a particular topic based on classroom discussions and supplemental readings. All four assignments will involve a brief supplemental reading and a 2-3 page response paper. The specifics of the assignments, including a rubric for grading criteria, will be posted on eLearning. Assignments are due by **7:00pm** on the day listed on the Schedule below (however I welcome early work) and will be submitted through eLearning. All submitted assignments must be original work.

### Extra Credit:

No individualized extra credit will be given out. No credit that would otherwise be dropped can be applied towards missing credit (e.g. if you come to all classes, you can't use your two allowed drops to replace a homework assignment)

### Research Exposure Credits:

All students enrolled in this core class must earn research exposure credits. Details about this requirement appear on the separate Research Exposure Credit Requirement handout distributed on the first day of class. Information is also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning and on the BBS website. There have been several policy changes effective Spring 2013, please make sure to be aware of these changes.

## Schedule

Date	Class	Topic	Reading	Assignment
8/26	1	Course Overview and Introduction to Personality	Chapter 1	
9/2		Labor Day – NO CLASS		
9/9	2	Research Methods in Personality	Chapters 2 & 3	
9/16	3	Personality Traits Personality Assessment	Chapter 4 Chapter 5	Homework #1 Due
9/23	4	Personality Judgment in Daily Life Personality and Behavior	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	
9/30	5	<b>TEST 1</b>		
10/7	6	Biological Approaches to Personality: Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	
10/14	7	Psychoanalysis Basics Unconscious Mind: Defenses and Slip	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	Homework #2 Due
10/21	8	Finish Unconscious Mind Psychoanalysis After Freud	Chapter 11 cont. Chapter 12	
10/28	9	Humanistic and Positive Psychology	Chapter 13	
11/4	10	<b>TEST 2</b>		
11/11	11	Cultural Variations on Personality Learning Theories & Behaviorism	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	
11/18	12	Perception, Thought, Motivation and Emotion The Self	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Homework #3 Due
11/25		Fall Break – NO CLASS		
12/2	13	Personality Disorders Wrap up	Chapter 18 Chapter 19	
12/9	14	TEST 3		

**The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**

## **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the link below constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.