

PSY 431 Section 2: Personality (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2007

Location: AB IV Room 302

Class Meeting Times: Mon, Wed, Fri 11:00-11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Ronald Davis **Office Location:** Smith Kirkley Room 322

Instructor Contact Information: Phone: 936-294-3285 (office); 936- 294-1174 or 1-866-BEARKAT—ask for Psychology Dept; (fax) 936-294-3798 E-Mail: rld004@shsu.edu (I am most easily contacted by e-mail. I am often not in my office other than during office hours)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Course Description: In this course a study is made of major theories of Personality. The biological and social factors in the development and functioning of personality will be considered.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss the fundamental concepts of the major theories of personality
- Explain behavior by applying the fundamental concepts of the major theories of personality
- Compare the major theories of personality in terms of their being amenable to falsification through empirical research
- Identify methods used by the major theories of personality to assess and intervene in various forms of maladjustment

Required Text: Rykman, Richard M. (2008). *Theories of Personality* 9th Edition. Belmont, California: Thomson Wadsworth.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be recorded by your signature on a class roster. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Please see exam and grading plan below. Attendance will comply with SHSU policy, specifically: A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Exams and Grading Plan: Three 50 question exams and a 75 question final exam comprised of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions that will cover the text, lecture and any other materials assigned by the instructor for that particular exam. The final exam will be selectively comprehensive. Students who have either missed an exam or would like a chance to replace a grade on one of the three exams (excluding the final) will have the opportunity to take a selectively comprehensive make-up exam. This exam will be offered only once.

Social History: During the first two weeks of the semester each student will write a social history according to the format provided by the professor. This social history may be of a family member, friend, a well known person in the media. It must be anonymous unless the student is utilizing published biographical or autobiographical information. These must be posted to blackboard by the student and will be utilized through the remainder of the semester as a vehicle for application of personality theory concepts.

In Class Papers: Students will be asked to write several short papers in class either applying concepts from personality theory to a social history or some other topic presented by the professor during lecture. There is no pre-specified number of mini papers but each will be worth 10 points for their completion. Should the student be absent during a class in which the class wrote a mini paper, he/she will have a chance to make up ONE mini-paper during the final exam.

Extra Credit: Up to 10 points of extra credit may be awarded to students by participating in research or mock therapy session. To obtain this credit the student must go through the PeRP system which may be accessed through the Psychology Department website or <http://shsu.sona-systems.com>. Students may also earn 5 additional extra credit points by writing a summary of an article in the area of personality psychology.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Exams = 300 points (100 points each)
Social History = 20 points
Final Exam = 150 points
Attendance = 25 points
In class papers (mini-papers) = 10 points each for completion

A = 90% of total possible points
B = 80-89% of total possible points
C = 70 to 79% of total possible points
D = 60 to 69% of total possible points
F = below 60% of total possible points

Make-up exams are discouraged. A make-up will be offered for only one missed exam and will be comprised of 20 short answer and/or essay questions. A make-up exam may only be taken on Monday, Wednesday or Friday by prior arrangement with the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE:** no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse 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.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the

visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations: Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Study Tips: Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE CALENDAR (Assignment and test dates subject to change)

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| 8/25 Ch.1 | 8/27 Ch 1 | 8/29 Ch 2 | 9/1 NC | 9/3 Ch 2 | 9/5 Ch3 | 9/8 Ch.3 | 9/10 Ch 4 | 9/12 Ch 4 | 9/15 Rev. | 9/17 Ex 1 | 9/19 Ch 5 | 9/22 Ch 5 | 9/24 Ch 6 |
| 9/26 Ch 6 | 9/29 Ch 7 | 10/1 Ch 7 | 10/3 Ch 8 | 10/6 Ch 8 | 10/8 Ch 9 | 10/10 Ch 9 | 10/13 Ch10 | 10/15 Ch 10 | 10/17 Rev | 10/20 Ex 2 | 10/22 Ch 11 | 10/24 Ch 11 | 10/27 Ch. 12 |
| 10/29 Ch 12 | 10/31 Ch. 13 | 11/3 Ch 13 | 11/5 Ch 14 | 11/7 Ch 14 | 11/10 Ch 15 | 11/12 Ch 15 | 11/14 Ch 15 | 11/17 Rev | 11/19 Ex 3 | 11/21 Ch 16 | 11/24 Ch. 16 | 11/26 NC | 11/28 NC |
| 12/1 Ch. 17 | 12/3 Ch. 17 | 12/5 MU | 12/8 MU | 12/10 MU | 12/12 Study Day | 12/15 Finals | | | | | | | |

10/10—Last day to drop without an F

Presentation schedule begins 10/1—only one presentation per class period (15 minutes in length)—No presentations on review or exam dates

Classroom Rules of Conduct: The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. During class, no electronic communication equipment is permissible unless required by a disabling condition. This means no cell phones use; no text messaging; no audio equipment or earpieces during class or exams. **THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**