1: PSY 4301 (section D10) PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY (FALL 2017)
(Prerequisite: PSY 2301 General Psychology)

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2: COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

2.1: Purpose. This course introduces students to classic and contemporary theories of personality and the research that supports them. The material enables students to describe and analyze individual differences.

2.2: Structure. This is an ONLINE course that runs for eight weeks. All tests and assignments can be completed from remote sites. The Blackboard software system houses all aspects of the course. The course begins on Monday, August 28, and ends on Friday, October 20 at noon. Please take a look at the course folders. The main ones are Syllabus, Discussions, Application Exercises, Quizzes/Tests, Learning Modules, Videos, and MyGrades.

2.2.1: If you have questions at any time during the course, please ask them by going to the Discussions folder - click on the Questions forum, then Create Thread, write something in the Subject box that indicates what your question is about, and then ask it. This way, you and other students can access my answer. I will check this forum daily.

2.3: Etiquette Expectations. The course provides students with the opportunity to practice writing helpful messages to classmates, similar to what they may encounter later in corresponding with coworkers in the workplace. It is essential to write in a courteous and respectful style.

2.4: Technical Support. The ASU Helpdesk (325 942-2911) provides students with technical assistance at all hours of the day or night. It is staffed by local technicians M-F 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM; other times it is staffed by non-local technicians.

3: REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


4: COURSE OBJECTIVES

4.1: To produce an understanding of various approaches to personality theory and assessment.
4.2: To produce an understanding of the various approaches to personality research.
4.3: To produce an ability to connect personality concepts to oneself and others.

5: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will:
5.1: Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
5.2: Analyze behavior and mental processes that are caused by the unconscious.
5.3: Describe and explain individual differences.
5.4: Interpret the actions of self and others in terms of personality qualities.

6: GRADE CRITERIA

6.1: The course grade will be based on the number of points earned out of a possible 1000. The cutoffs for determining a letter grade will follow the traditional standard of 90% (A), 80% (B), 70% (C), and 60% (D). At the end of the course, I will round up partial percent to the nearest whole number (for example, 89.5 = 90 = A; 89.4 = 89 = B).

You will earn points by taking weekly exams (short quizzes and longer tests) (600 points) and one additional “Special Topics” test that stays available all eight weeks (60 points), completing four application exercises (180 points) and three discussions (135 points), and submitting course work punctually (25 points).

6.2: Quizzes. There are eight weekly quizzes worth 12.5 points apiece. Each one has 5 questions (multiple-choice and true-false) worth 2.5 points apiece, and there is a time limit of 7 minutes (important point: the quiz will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 7th minute unless you have submitted it earlier). The purpose of the quizzes is to give you practice at answering questions prior to taking the test, so completing the quiz is a prerequisite for taking the test. After submitting a quiz, you receive immediate feedback about the questions that were answered incorrectly (you will need to be in the Respondus Lockdown Browser to access the feedback). Each quiz may be taken ONCE.

6.3: Tests. There are eight weekly tests worth 62.5 points apiece. They are composed of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Each test has 25 questions (worth 2.5 points per question) and a 35 minute time limit (important point: the test will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 35th minute unless you have submitted it earlier). You can take each weekly test up to THREE times, and each retake will have a different set of questions (but with some overlap from the previous version). The Grade Center retains the highest score.

6.3.1: All the weekly quizzes and tests are available in the Quizzes Tests folder, beginning on the first class day. The fact that they are all posted at the beginning of the course allows you to “work ahead” if you want and take them earlier than the week they are due (this feature provides an accommodation to students who know they must be away from this course during certain periods of time). The due dates/times are on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM CST in successive weeks, beginning on Tuesday of the second week of the course.

6.3.2: In addition to the weekly exams, one additional test, called the “Special Topics Test”, is available from the first class day until the last class day. Its purpose is to give you brief exposure to topics that are embedded in unassigned chapters. It is worth 60 points and may be taken anytime, up to SIX times; the highest score will be retained in the Grade Center. It covers the
eight topics listed just below the course calendar. It has 20 questions worth 3 points apiece, drawn from the pages listed with the topics, and a time limit of 30 minutes, at which point it will automatically submit.

6.3.3: CRUCIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING EXAMS (quizzes and tests). The exams are delivered with software called Respondus Lockdown Browser (RLB). This software is already loaded in computer labs on campus, but if you want to take exams from other locations, you will need to download the software onto the computer where you take the exam (click on the Support tab on the Blackboard homepage to access the link).

To take an exam, click on the RLB icon on the desktop and it will take you into Blackboard. Then, click on this course; then click on the Exams folder; then click on the exam you are to take. You will be asked if the instructor provided a "Password"; answer "No". If you have entered Blackboard properly by accessing it through the RLB icon, the password for the exam will be entered automatically on your behalf and you can start the exam. Once you begin, the timer starts and continues to run until either you submit the exam or the time limit is reached. If you try to take an exam without going through the RLB, you will be asked to provide a test password that you don't have, so you cannot take the test.

6.4: Application Exercises (AEs). There are four AEs that are worth 45 points apiece. See the Application Exercises folder for due dates and instructions. Ordinarily, the AEs will be scored during the week following the due dates, and you can access my feedback by clicking on the name of the assignment in the “graded” section of the MyGrades folder.

6.5: Discussions. There are three discussions that are worth 45 points apiece. See the Discussion folder for the due dates and instructions. Ordinarily, they will be scored during the week following the due dates, and you can access my feedback by clicking on the name of the assignment in the “graded” section of the MyGrades folder.

6.6: Punctuality. The online course format requires you to exercise a lot of self-discipline. The timely completion of tests, essays, and discussions is very important, because something is due every week of the semester. To encourage and reward your consistent progress on mastering course material, you begin the course with 25 “punctuality” points. If none of the assignments are submitted in a particular week, 5 points will be deducted from the 25.

The reason for the weekly due dates rather than massing together all of the assessments into only one or two due dates is that people mentally retain material better if the learning is spaced out across time rather bunched together into an overly large amount.

7: FEEDBACK ABOUT PERFORMANCE. To get additional feedback about your performance on particular assignments, open the MyGrades page and click on the name of the assignment in the Graded section (note: if the assignment was an exam in the RLB, then you will need to access Blackboard via the RLB to see the extra feedback – the quizzes provide immediate feedback; feedback on the tests occurs after the due date).

8: POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK
8.1: The exams, application exercises, and discussions are available from the first class day until their due dates, which is an ample amount of time. To protect yourself against unexpected emergencies, do not wait until the last day. If you miss a deadline, the make-up work is worth 75% of the original points. The make-up work can be submitted any time after their due dates, using the same submission links as the regular assessments.

8.2: With regard to the make-up discussion forums only the thread counts, so there no need to submit replies (because classmates are unlikely to read replies after the due date).

8.3: With regard to the make-up quizzes and tests, only the first attempt after the deadline counts (unlike regular tests which allow three attempts). Use the regular quiz or test links.

8.5: In rare cases, a student begins an attempt at a test too close to the deadline time of 9:00 AM and then submits it after the deadline time has passed. In such cases, there is a five-minute grace period, after which the score will be adjusted for make-up credit.

9: COURSE CALENDAR

Dates / Topic / Readings & Assessments

Week One (August 28 – September 5) / Introduction and Research Methods / Chapters 1-2 Quiz & Test, Discussion #1

Week Two (September 5 - 12) / Traits & Situations / Chapter 4 Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #1

Week Three (September 12 – 19) / Personality Judgment / Chapter 5 Quiz & Test, Discussion #2

Week Four (September 19 - 26) / Traits & Behavior / Chapter 6 Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #2

Week Five (September 26 – October 3) / Inheritance & Evolutionary Psychology / Chapter 9 Quiz & Test, Discussion #3

Week Six (October 3 - 10) / Psychoanalysis / Chapter 10 Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #3

Week Seven (October 10 - 17) / Humanism / Chapter 12 Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #4

Week Eight (October 16 - 20 at noon) / Behaviorism & Social Learning / Chapter 14 Quiz & Test

Weeks One – Eight (August 28 – October 20 at noon) / Special Topics Test / see readings below

Special Topics Test: (Topic / Chapter / Pages)
10: WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE
The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, September 29, 2017.

11: PLAGIARISM
11.1 Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

11.2: In your writing, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the *APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php).

12: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
12.1: “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

12.2: The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of
Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

12.3: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

13: STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”