

1: PSY 4301 (section DS1) PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY (FALL 2019)
(Prerequisite: PSY 2301 General Psychology)

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Virtual Office Hours (online): M-F 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST (Central Standard Time)

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 26, and ends on Friday, October 18 at noon. Please take a look at the course folders. The main ones are Syllabus, Schedule of Assessment Due Dates, 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

Funder, D. C. (2016, Seventh Edition). *The Personality Puzzle*. W. W. Norton Publisher (ISBN 978-0-393-26514-9).

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 8 minutes (important point: the quiz will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 8th 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 38 minute time limit (important point: the test will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 38th 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.

6.4: CRUCIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING QUIZZES AND TESTS

6.4.1: 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 tests from other locations, you will need to download the software onto the computer where you take the test (click on the Support tab on the Blackboard homepage to access the link).

6.4.2 To take a quiz or test, click on the RLB icon on the desktop and it will take you into Blackboard. Then, click on this course; then click on the Tests folder; then click on the quiz or test 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 test will be entered automatically on your behalf and you can start the test. If you try to take a quiz or test 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.

6.4.3 There is a university requirement that online tests must utilize a video recording system. The instructions below (section 6.4.4) apply to the **tests** in this course, but they do not apply to the **quizzes**. The quizzes do not require video recording.

6.4.4 Testing via Respondus™ Monitor

Access to exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded test. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable recommended (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to **Angelo State University's Distance Education** website for further technology requirements:

http://www.angelo.edu/online-education/technology_requirements.php

6: GRADE CRITERIA (CONTINUED)

6.5: **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.

6.6: **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.

6.7: **Punctuality**. The online course format requires you to exercise a lot of self-discipline. The timely completion of tests, application exercises, 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 than bunched together into an overly large amount.

6.8: **Permissible Resources in Completing Assessments**. Students should work alone when completing all of the assessments in the course (quizzes, tests, application exercises, discussion forums). However, *the use of the textbook and class notes is permissible*.

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). The feedback for the application exercises and the discussion forums include grading rubrics that provide the details about the calculation of the score.

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 26 – September 3 at 9:00 AM) / Introduction and Research Methods / Chapters 1-2 **Quiz & Test, Discussion #1**

Week Two (September 3 – 10 at 9:00 AM) / Traits & Situations / Chapter 4 **Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #1**

Week Three (September 10 – 17 at 9:00 AM) / Personality Judgment / Chapter 5 **Quiz & Test, Discussion #2**

Week Four (September 17 – 24 at 9:00 AM) / Traits & Behavior / Chapter 6 **Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #2**

Week Five (September 24 – October 1 at 9:00 AM) / Inheritance & Evolutionary Psychology / Chapter 9 **Quiz & Test, Discussion #3**

Week Six (October 1 – 8 at 9:00 AM) / Psychoanalysis / Chapter 10 **Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #3**

Week Seven (October 8 – 15 at 9:00 AM) / Humanism / Chapter 12 **Quiz & Test, Application Exercise #4**

Week Eight (October 14 – 18 at noon) / Behaviorism & Social Learning / Chapter 14 **Quiz & Test**

Weeks One – Eight (August 26 – October 18 at noon) / **Special Topics Test** / see readings below

Special Topics Test: (Topic / Chapter / Pages)

Projective Tests / 3 / 71-77

Factor Analysis 3 / 83-86

Amygdala / 8 / 268-271

Alfred Adler / 11 / 395-396

Collectivism & Individualism / 13 / 469-477

Defensive Pessimism / 15 / 567-569
Self-Discrepancy / 16 / 596
Type A / 17 / 638-640

10: WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE

The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, September 27, 2019.

11: UNIVERSITY POLICIES THAT APPLY TO THIS COURSE

Below is a list of university-wide policies that are relevant to this course. To view the specific details, paste the URL into your web browser.

<https://www.angelo.edu/instructional-design/syllabus-statements.php>

- Student Disability Services
- Title IX
- Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- General Policies Related to This Course
- Student Conduct Policies: Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, Copyright Policy