PSY 6311 THEORIES OF PERSONALITY  FALL 2019
(This course runs for eight weeks from October 21 until December 13 at noon)

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Purpose. This course introduces students to the leading theories, research, and applications in the field of personality psychology. After completing the course, students will have an advanced understanding of human uniqueness – in terms of describing and explaining the ways in which people differ from one another and in terms of knowing how these differences affect their daily lives.

Structure. This is an ONLINE course. 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, October 21, and ends on Friday, December 13 at noon. Please take a look at the course folders. The main ones are Syllabus, Discussions, Application Exercises, Tests, Learning Modules, and MyGrades.

If you have questions at any time during the course, please ask them by going to the Discussions folder - click on 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.

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.

Technical Support. The ASU Helpdesk (325 942-2911) provides students with technical assistance at all hours of the day or night. Local technicians are available M-F 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM; other times are staffed by outside agents.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Gaining factual knowledge
2. Learning about fundamental theories and personality research
3. Learning to apply the course material

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:
*Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
Analyze behavior and mental processes that are caused by the unconscious.
Describe and explain individual differences.
Compare and contrast theories that attempt to explain similar behaviors.

TEXTBOOK AND RESEARCH ARTICLE


One Research Article (listed in the Discussions folder)

GRADE CRITERIA

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), and 70% (C).

TESTS. There are eight (weekly) tests worth 75 points apiece. The tests are composed of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Each test will have 30 questions (worth 2.5 points per question), and the time limit is 40 minutes (important point: the test will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 40th 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.

All the weekly tests are available in the 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 to 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.

CRUCIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING 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 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).

To take a 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 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 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. Once you begin, the timer starts and continues to run until either you submit the exam or the time limit is reached.
There is a university requirement that online tests must utilize a video recording system. The instructions below apply to the tests in this course.

**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

**APPLICATION EXERCISES (AEs)**. There are four AEs, worth 45 points apiece. They run concurrently with the test in a particular week and deal with the same topics that are covered on the test. See the Application Exercises folder for due dates and instructions. Ordinarily, they are scored during the week following the due dates, and you can access my feedback by clicking on the “grade” in the MyGrades folder.

**DISCUSSIONS.** There are four discussion forums that are worth 45 points apiece. They give you an opportunity to introduce yourself to classmates in the first week of the class (forum #1), read and respond to classmates ideas about motivation (forum #2) and self-actualization (forum #3), and read and respond to classmates ideas about an original research article (forum #4).

**PERMISSIBLE RESOURCES IN COMPLETING ASSESSMENTS.** Students should work alone when completing all of the assessments in the course (exams, application exercises, discussion forums, application project). However, *the use of the textbook and class notes is permissible.*

**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 is a test in the RLB, then you will need to access Blackboard via the RLB to see the extra feedback during the week following a test, the test settings will be changed so that you can review the correct and incorrect answers.

PUNCTUALITY POINTS. 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. To encourage and reward your consistent progress on mastering course material, you begin the course with 40 “punctuality” points. Each missed deadline will deduct 5 points from the 40.

POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK

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.

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).

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

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.

COURSE CALENDAR

Dates / Topic / Readings / Assessments

Week 1 (October 21 – 29) / Introduction and Research Methods / Chapters 1-2 / Test 1, Forum #1
Week 2 (October 29 – November 5) / Personality Assessment / Chapter 3 / Test 2, Application #1
Week 3 (November 5 - 12) / The Trait Perspective / Chapter 4 / Test 3, Application #2
Week 4 (November 12 - 19) / The Motive Perspective / Chapter 5 / Test 4, Forum #2
Week 5 (November 19 – 26) / The Psychoanalytic Perspective / Chapter 8 / Test 5, Application #3
Week 6 (November 26 – December 3) / Self-Actualization & Self-Determination / Chapter 11 / Test 6, Forum #3
Week 7 (December 3 - 10) / Special Topics #1 Biological Perspective (see reading list #1 below) / Test 7, Application #4
Week 8 (December 9 - 13 at noon) / Special Topics #2 Learning Perspective (see reading list #2 below) Research Article (see Discussions folder) / Test 8, Forum #4

Special Topics #1 (Purpose is to provide exposure to important ideas about biological topics nested within two chapters)

- Biology of Approach and Avoidance Systems / sections 7.2 & 7.3
- Genetics and Evolution / sections 6.1, 6.2, & 6.5

Special Topics #2 (Purpose is to provide exposure to important ideas about learning and social learning topics nested within two chapters)

- Instrumental Conditioning / section 10.2
- Expectancies / sections 10.3.3, 10.3.4, 10.3.5, 10.7.7, 13.2.9, Box 13.2

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE

The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, November 22, at 5:00 PM.

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