

**Psychology SS3430
Theories of Personality**

Instructor: Todd C. Baird, Ph.D.

Office Hours: M, W, F (9:00-10:00 a.m.) T, TH (11:15-12:00) or by appointment.

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Required Text: Cloninger, S. (2004). *Theories of personality: Understanding persons*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Prentice Hall.

Aspects of the syllabus are subject to changes. These will be announced in class if they occur.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will acquire knowledge about several of the leading personality theories within the field of psychology and be able to describe their basic underlying premises and key concepts.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to compare and contrast the different theories discussed in the course in classroom discussion and in written form through essay exams.
3. Students will recognize and describe the many factors (biological and environmental) that shape personality.

Requirements:

1. **Class Attendance and Participation.** The first key to being successful in life is just showing up. Therefore, in order to be successful in this class it is expected and required that students will attend each class lecture. It is also assumed by this instructor that each individual in the classroom will have something to contribute, and that we will learn from each other. It is expected that students will attend each class period having read the material before the lecture/discussions. This will allow for discussion that will facilitate learning in the classroom. Each student will be graded on their performance as noted in the grading section of this syllabus. Participation points will be given based on attendance, participation in discussion, and evaluation by your presentation group. Mutual respect for each other is expected during the course. If a student continues to disrupt or disrespect others in the class (including tardiness) he/she will be asked to withdraw from the course. Related to this issue cell phones and pagers should be turned off during all class periods. For issues related to student rights and responsibilities see the Student Rights and Responsibilities section on the Weber State University website <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is located in room 181 of the Student Service Center. Any student requiring accommodations for this course must contact SSD. The following link will provide you with contact information <http://weber.edu/ssd>.
2. **Personality Theory Presentation.** During the semester each class member will either choose or be assigned to a group of 3-4 students. Each group will choose a theory of personality that is not in the text and present it in class during the last two weeks of the semester.
3. **Examinations and Quiz.** The exams will be taken in the social science testing center. The majority of each exam will be essay questions. These questions will require that you either compare and contrast two or more theories or describe certain aspects of a particular theory. Some exams may have a few multiple choice question. Questions will be drawn from the text and class discussions. I recognize that on occasion an individual may have a bad test day, for

that reason you may take an optional comprehensive final exam to replace one of your four exam scores or an exam missed during the semester. This option will be discussed in class. If you plan on being away on school or personal business during an exam you must arrange with me to take the exam prior to your departure. The final exam is comprehensive. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you are involved in either of these behaviors you will be referred to appropriate University authorities and will receive 0 points on that assignment or exam.

4. **Personal Biography.** By the end of the semester you will have been exposed to several personality theories. Using these theories you will write your own biography detailing your personality development. Specific guidelines will be given after the fourth week of class.

Grading: Your grade will be based on a percentage of all points possible. The total points possible and grade assignments will be as follows:

Exam #1:	100 Points
Exam #2:	100 Points
Exam #3:	100 Points
Exam #4	100 Points
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Discussion Participation	50 Points
Personal Personality Bio.	100 Points
Personality Presentation	50 Points

Total = 600 Points

94-100 % = A	73-76 % = C	<u>Percentage Grade:</u> (your total points) / (total points possible) x 100
90-93 % = A-	70-72 % = C-	
87-89 % = B+	67-69 % = D+	
83-86 % = B	63-66 % = D	
80-82 % = B-	60-62 % = D-	
77-79 % = C+	Below 59 % F	

Class Schedule:

Date	Reading Assignment by Chapter	Class Work, Assignments, & Exams
Jan 6th	Chapter 1	
Jan 13th	Chapter 2	
Jan 20th	Chapter 3	Take Exam #1 (Ch1-3) Jan 23-24
Jan 27th	Chapter 4	
Feb 3rd	Chapter 5	
Feb 10th	Chapter 6	Take Exam #2 (Ch 4-6) Feb 13-14
Feb 17th	Chapter 7	

Feb 24th	Chapter 8	
Mar 3rd	Chapter 9	Take Exam #3 (Ch 7-9) Mar 6-7
Mar 17th	Chapter 10 and 11	
Mar 24th	Chapter 12	
Mar 31st	Chapter 14 and 15	
		Take Exam #4 (Ch 10-15) April 9-11
		Due: Personal Bio. (April 10)
Apr 14th	Begin Group Presentations	
Apr 24th - 29th	Optional Exam to Replace a Previous Exam Score	Take Exam #5 (Final Exam-Comprehensive)