

**University of West Georgia**  
Department of Psychology

**Theories of Personality**  
PSYC-3900

**Instructor:**

Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre  
Office: 214 Melson Hall  
Phone: 678 839-0624

**Lecture:** online

Please use only [courseden/D2L](#) for course correspondence

Virtual Office Hours: by appointment.

**Course Description**

The field of personality psychology consists of research and theory on the nature of the person, the psyche, and on differences between people: how we differ systematically from others, and what might be the cause or basis of these differences. This course offers comparison of historically important theories concerning the structure of personality and the nature and origin of personality differences. It explores what we have in common psychologically as well as how we are not alike, and how our differences might affect our relationships and our lives.

This course introduces and invites comparison of a diverse and set of perspectives on personality and motivation (with emphasis on the former). The object is to become well acquainted with the major assumptions of each model of personality, the aspects of human nature these are able to address, and limitations of each approach (as well as limitations in the theories collectively). We will concern ourselves with the social/historical context of these theories as well as the life context of individual theorists in addition to understanding the theories themselves. There also will be opportunities to apply theories to your own personality.

The structure and organization of the course is historical as well as thematic. Where possible, we will examine historically important or representative texts that explicate or illustrate the features of the theory under consideration.

**Learning Objectives**

Overview: Conduct critical, comparative exploration of competing theories and frameworks for understanding personality .

Specific objectives:

1. To articulate major assumptions, applications, advantages and limitations of each approach to personality.
2. To describe the contexts, personal, historical, and social in which theories emerge, and to evaluate each theory with consideration of these contexts.
3. To explore research and theory in relation to own personality

By taking this class, you should be able to:

- Specify major themes, concepts, metaphors, assumptions of and influences on at least seven approaches to understanding human personality.
- Demonstrate skill in taking the perspective of competing theoretical frameworks.
- Explain the bases of personality theorizing
- Acquire confidence in reading and interpreting primary source material relevant to personality
- Demonstrate awareness of tools for exploring your own personality

### **Class Structure**

In general, the class will follow reading and discussion format. Students will have the opportunity to view videos and mini lectures by various online professionals. As the semester progresses, more reliance will be placed on students' ability to critically consider applications of theories and ideas. Active participation will help develop a richer understanding of how various psychopathologies manifest in real life cases.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Grades will be comprised of "attendance" and participation (discussion), daily chapter assignments, 2 exams, and 1 cumulative final exam.

**Attendance and Participation:** Because active discussion and experiential exercises are integral parts of the learning experience in this course, class attendance is expected and participation in class activities and assignments will be considered in determining your grade. **You are permitted two unexcused "absences" and then you will be dropped ½ letter grade for each additional class/discussion missed.** All assignments and exams are expected to be completed on time. Late assignments will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor and will incur a penalty.

Students will have the opportunity to earn 5 points for every class that they participate in by logging on to D2L and making a contribution to the discussion.

**Weekly Assignment:** Students will have the opportunity to earn 25 points for each weekly assignment. Assignments will be posted on D2L and will be turned in via Dropbox.

**Exams:** Two non-cumulative exams will be scheduled during normal class periods. The exams will cover lecture material, videotapes, class discussion, guest lecture material, and course readings. You are responsible for **all** material covered in the text and other class readings **regardless of whether the material is discussed during class.** Exams will be worth 100 points and will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions, but may include matching, true/false, and/or short answer/essay items. Make-up exams will not be given unless you notify the instructor of your inability to attend the "class" by the day of

the test. Even then, make-up exams will be given only in cases of **extreme emergencies or documented illness** at the instructor's discretion.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is scheduled during the final exam period and is worth 200 points. It will be cumulative and comprised of mainly multiple-choice questions, but may include matching, true/false, and/or short answer/essay items. More detail regarding the final exam will be given as the final exam date approaches. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of **extreme emergencies or documented illness** at the instructor's discretion.

**Course Grades:** Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance	90
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Exam	200
Weekly assign.	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>

#### **Grade distribution**

A = 531-590

B = 472-530

C = 413-471

D = 354-412

F = 353 and below

#### **Required Materials**

**D2L:** All students enrolled in this course are required to check Coursden/D2L weekly for the duration of the course. Course announcements, changes to the syllabus, and memos from the instructor will be distributed via D2L. Students are responsible for all information distributed in this manner.

**Text: Schultz, D. & Schultz, P. (2013). *Theories of Personality, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition*, ISBN-10:1111834539**

[\\*Please note: You are welcome to purchase a used copy or a used copy of the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> editions for considerable savings.](#)

In addition: If you have not already purchased the text check out the Internet prices for the text. You may be able to find a deal! Although last I checked, the most economical way to get the book is to rent it through the bookstore.

#### **Course Outline**

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Reading</i></b>
Week 1	1/6	Orientation and expectations <i>Personality: What it is!</i>	Orientation Module Chapter
Week 2	1/13	<i>What Freud had to say.</i>	Chapter 2
Week 3	1/20	<i>Jung and Analytical</i>	Chapter 3
Week 4	1/27	<i>Alfred Adler</i>	Chapter 4
Week 5	2/3	<i>Horney</i>	Chapter 5
Week 6	2/10	<b>Exam I</b> <i>Erik Erikson</i>	Chapter 6
Week 8	2/24	<i>Gordon Allport</i>	Chapter 7
Week 9	3/3	<i>Cattell, Eysenck</i>	Chapter 8
Week 10	3/10	<i>Abraham Maslow</i>	Chapter 9
Week 11	3/17	Spring Break	
Week 12	3/24	<i>Carl Rogers</i>	Chapter 10
Week 13	4/7	<i>Kelly: Personal Construct</i>	Chapter 11
Week 14	4/14	<b>Exam II</b> <i>B. F. Skinner</i>	Chapter 12
Week 15	4/21	<i>Albert Bandura</i>	Chapter 13
Week 16	4/28	<i>Personality in Perspective</i>	Chapter 15
<b>Finals Week</b>	5/5	<b>Final Exam</b>	

### Special Notes

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating, plagiarism, any other form of academic dishonesty will **NOT** be tolerated. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance to university regulations (please see page 4 of your student handbook). Students caught engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will minimally be given a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question.

**Accommodations:** Students with special needs as determined by the Student Development Office must submit a letter to the instructor within the first two weeks of class (or as soon as the needs have been determined) specifying the accommodations they require.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

The Office of Disability Services will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. The Office of Disability Services web site can be found at the following

URL [http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php)

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if there is a case a building must be evacuated, and you need to make special arrangements, please notify your instructor using the course email system by the end of the second full week of class. Attach a PDF copy of your SAR (Available from the Office of Disability Services).

*- January 10, 2012 3:54 PM*

**This syllabus is an evolutionary document:** Circumstances may require adjustments during the term therefore; the dates of lectures, exams, projects, etc. may be revised as the term progresses. Consequently, the dates contained in this syllabus are **NOT** binding. All modifications to the syllabus will be announced via D2L/Coursden.