

**PSY 3500 80 Theories of Personality**  
**Winter 2024, 6-week session**  
**William Paterson University**

Professor: Dr. Megan Chesin

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Office hours: By appointment on zoom (<https://wpunj.zoom.us/j/4370347001>)

Course credits: 3

Course meetings: This course is an online course, delivered asynchronously. There are no face-to-face meetings.

### **Psychology Department Information**

Chairperson: W. Indick, PhD

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### **Course Description**

*Course Overview:* This course is a survey of the nature and concerns of personality theory. Coverage includes the contributions of major theorists from the classical psychoanalytic, neo-analytic, behaviorist, humanistic, cognitive, social-cognitive, and interactionist viewpoints. Biological aspects of personality are also considered. Coverage includes the history of personality theory, the measurement of personality, and controversies in the field.

#### *Course Objectives:*

1. To introduce students to the concept of human personality.
2. To introduce students to philosophical and empirical issues in constructing a theory of personality.
3. To introduce students to the work of major personality theorists, including: Freud, Adler, Jung, Horney, Sullivan, Erikson, Allport, Maslow, Rogers, Skinner, and Bandura.
4. To stimulate critical thinking concerning a variety of personality theories.
5. To stimulate critical thinking concerning clinical applications of personality theories.
6. To stimulate critical thinking concerning empirical testing of propositions derived from personality theories.

#### *Student Learning Objectives:* By the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Understand the issues involved in constructing a theory of personality.
2. Understand and discuss the differences between various major theories of personality.
3. Understand and discuss specific content of various theories of personality.
4. Understand and discuss issues related to the empirical testing of statements from theories of personality.

**Required Text:**

Friedman, H. S. & Schustack, M. W. (2016). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research*, 6th edition. Boston, MA: Pearson Education. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-99793-0

*Note on the text:*

This text is available via a Pearson digital product here:

<https://www.pearson.com/store/p/perspectives-on-personality-classic-theories-and-modern-research/P100003097088/9780137478316>. Among others, there is an option to rent the eText for a nominal fee. Please note if you buy the Pearson digital product: You do not need to complete the writing assignments, quizzes, etc. that are provided as part of the digital resources for this text. They may help you to study, consolidate learning. However, quizzes and exams that fulfill the course requirements will be completed via Blackboard, as described below. Also, for this course, it is recommended that you navigate through the table of contents in the digital textbook and/or the hardcopy version of the text. Use the course schedule below as your guide re: which chapter to read in preparation for class.

*Note on alternative text access:*

Because quizzes and exams that fulfill the course requirements are completed via Blackboard, it is not necessary to purchase the latest version of the text or purchase the text through Pearson. Renting the text through Chegg Books or a similar platform is a cost-effective option, as is buying an older or used version of the text. Students have had success using older editions of the text. If you choose this option, please make sure you are reading the correct chapter by following along with the chapter title/topic instead of the chapter number on the course schedule.

**Teaching Method**

Under the 'Course Materials' tab on Blackboard, there is a folder for each chapter. In each folder, you can find materials such as lecture notes, interesting websites, etc. These will guide you in your studies and help prepare you to complete discussion posts and tests. A list of assignments to be completed for the chapter appears within each chapter folder.

\*Note: Because this class does not meet in-person, when I have posted to Blackboard, I consider you advised. It is your responsibility to ensure that the email address listed on Blackboard is correct and that you regularly check this email address and Blackboard 'Announcements' for information that I may send.

**Course Policies**

*Netiquette:* When corresponding with your instructor and classmates through email or on the discussion boards, please use proper grammar and a positive tone. Please avoid "netspeak," like "u," "r," "omg," and "lol." Please also refrain from using all CAPITAL LETTERS, as this is often interpreted as shouting. Treat your instructor and fellow students with respect at all times, and in all communications. You can learn more about the rules of Netiquette here: [Core Rules of Netiquette](#).

*Academic honesty:* I expect students to be honest in completing their own work during tests, papers, etc. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing, he or she will receive a zero for that assignment and may be referred to the Psychology Chairperson or the University President for

more severe sanctions (which may include receiving a failing grade in this course and possible expulsion from the University). Lying (e.g., falsely claiming a family member died to receive more time for an assignment) is also considered a form of violating academic integrity and will not be tolerated. For more information on academic integrity, please see the WPU Academic Integrity Policy at <https://www.wpunj.edu/human-resources/policies-forms-contracts/handbooks-and-contracts/faculty-and-professional-staff-handbook/academic-integrity-policy-for-students#:~:text=William%20Paterson%20University%20has%20established,each%20member%20of%20the%20community>.

*Tech Support:* For help using Blackboard, see the “help desk” or “student support” links on the left and top toolbars in Blackboard or consult the IT WIKI pages on Blackboard for students ([https://itwiki.wpunj.edu/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://itwiki.wpunj.edu/index.php/Main_Page)).

*Americans with Disabilities Act Notification:* In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations may be made for any student who has a documented disability and notifies me of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to work with the Accessibility Resource Center (<https://www.wpunj.edu/accessibilityresourcecenter/>) to bring such needs to my attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire about the particular needs of students. Please submit requests for accommodations within the first week of the semester so I may know how to assist you.

*Late Work:* In general, late work is not accepted in this course barring a documented emergency (e.g., illness with a medical doctor’s letter, loss with a copy of death certificate) and will receive a zero. If you need accommodation, please email me directly ASAP. Please see further details regarding late policies for each course assignment, which are listed below in the Course Assessment.

*COVID:* Because of the online, asynchronous nature of the course, many protocols will not be applicable. Please, however, familiarize yourself with University policies, procedures and resources with respect to the COVID Global Pandemic, which are available here: <https://www.wpunj.edu/covid19/>

## **Course Assessment**

### **1. Final Exam: 20% of your final grade**

There final is cumulative and in multiple-choice format. It is worth 20% of your final grade and will cover readings and materials posted in ‘Course Materials.’ You must access and take the test via Blackboard (wpunj.edu/bb) under the “Tests” link on the site for this course. The tests will consist of 40 multiple choice questions and must be completed online within 2 hours during the last week of class (see course schedule). You are welcome to use your book to help you on the test. However, given the time limitations on the tests, it is necessary that you READ and STUDY BEFORE you take the test.

In general, a make-up exam will not be permitted and you will receive a zero if you miss this test. If you miss taking the test online due to a documented emergency (e.g., illness with a

medical doctor's letter, loss with a copy of death certificate), it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours and organize a make-up test. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the test.

2. Completion of Final Exam Study Guide: 10% of your final grade

To aide you in preparing for the final, completing the final exam study guide during the last week of class is required. The study guide and directions for submitting the assignment when completed are available under 'Assignments.'

3. Tests: 40% of your final grade (10% each)

There will be four tests in multiple-choice format. Each of these will be worth 10% of your final grade and will cover readings and materials posted in 'Course Materials.' You must access and take the test via Blackboard (wpunj.edu/bb) under the "Tests" link on the site for this course. The tests will consist of 30-40 multiple choice questions and must be completed online within 1 hour and 15 minutes. These tests will NOT be cumulative and thus will only cover the material pertaining to the chapters indicated on the course schedule for that test. You are welcome to use your book to help you on the tests. However, given the time limitations on the tests, it is necessary that you READ and STUDY the CHAPTERS BEFORE you take the test.

In general, make-up tests will not be permitted and you will receive a zero for any test that you miss. If you miss taking the test online due to a documented emergency (e.g., illness with a medical doctor's letter, loss with a copy of death certificate), it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours and organize a make-up test. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the test.

4. Discussion Board Postings: 20% of your final grade (10% each)

Two times during the semester, for chapters 4 and 8, a question will be posted to the 'Discussion Board' on Blackboard for group discussion. You are expected to post a detailed response (approximately 2-3 paragraphs or 1 page double spaced) to the question using the text and any additional resources you see fit. In addition, you are expected to respond to at least 2 other students' postings (approximately 1 paragraph or one half page double spaced). Your reply to a classmate should provide an original thought. Do not just summarize or repeat what your classmate stated. Instead, critically evaluate the statement made in a respectful tone and/or add new information that you think could enhance our discussion. Simply agreeing or disagreeing with a post will not suffice. Therefore, you are expected to post a minimum of 3 quality postings on each discussion board. I will grade these discussion postings using the rubric appended to this syllabus as my guide, and I will provide feedback. I expect that my feedback to you about a prior post will be incorporated into your subsequent post. Failure to incorporate my feedback to you in a subsequent post that I grade will adversely affect your grade on the subsequent post. E.g., if I note on your first graded discussion post that your response was not in APA style or lacked adequate citation in-text, in the next post that I grade, I expect you will use APA style or make adequate in-text citations. If these improvements are not made in subsequent posts, I will take off more points than I did in the graded post where I first pointed them out.

In general, late posts will not be graded, and you will receive a zero on any graded discussion post that is not provided by the due date. If you miss posting your discussion on-time due to a documented emergency (e.g., illness with a medical doctor's letter, loss with a copy of death

certificate), it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours to explain. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the post.

**5. Participation: 10% of your final grade**

Responses to others' discussion posts within a week of the discussion post due date and your timely completion of postings during the first week of class (e.g., "getting to know each other post") count towards your participation grade.

*Summary of Course Assessment*

Final Exam	20%
Final Exam Study Guide	10%
Tests (4)	40% (10% each)
Discussion Posts (2)	20% (10% each)
Participation	10%

**Grading System**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	93.51 – 100
A-	89.51 - 93.5
B+	86.51 - 89.5
B	83.51 - 86.5
B-	79.51 - 83.5
C+	76.51 - 79.5
C	73.51 - 76.5
C-	69.51 – 73.5
D+	66.51 - 69.5
D	63.51 - 66.5
F	Below 63.5

**Important Dates (including last dates for withdrawals/refunds):**

<https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/calendars/index.html?tab=2>

### Course Schedule

As a rule of thumb, our schedule will generally have assignments and tests due at 11:59pm on Wednesdays. The Winter Session runs 12/18/23-1/24/24. Below is the detailed schedule.

<b>Date Assignment(s) or Test Due (by 11:59PM)*</b>	<b>Topic (Chapter) OR Activity</b>
12/27/2023	Course introduction (Review syllabus , Navigate through all links on Blackboard); Complete 'Getting to know each other discussion post
	Chapter 1 (What is Personality?)
	Chapter 3 (Psychoanalytic Aspects of Personality)
1/3/2024	Chapter 4 (Neo-Analytic and Ego Aspects of Personality); <b>Discussion Post Due</b>
	<b>Test (Chapter 3 &amp; 4)</b>
1/10/2024	Chapter 5 (Biological Aspects of Personality)
	Chapter 6 (Behaviorist and Learning Aspects of Personality)
	<b>Test (Chapter 5 &amp; 6), Comment on 2 other students' discussion posts on Chp 4</b>
1/17/2024	Chapter 7 (Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects of Personality)
	Chapter 8 (Trait Aspects of Personality); <b>Discussion Post Due</b>
	<b>Test (Chapter 7 &amp; 8)</b>
1/24/2024	Chapter 9 (Humanistic, Existential, and Positive Aspects of Personality)
	Chapter 10 (Person-Situation Interactionist Aspects of Personality)
	<b>Test (Chapter 9 &amp; 10), Comment on 2 other students' discussion posts on Chp 8</b>
1/24/2024	<b>Final Study Guide and Final Exam Due</b>

**\*Please see assignments under 'Course Materials' on Blackboard for a list of readings, etc. due for each topic (chapter) on specified date.**

\*\*\*\* This syllabus is provided for your information and *may change as deemed necessary*. You are responsible for learning all the material contained in this syllabus as well as any modifications that are made to the syllabus during the semester. If you have any questions about the syllabus or course requirements, I encourage you to email me.\*\*\*\*

Discussion Post Rubric				
Criteria		Unsatisfactory or Not Done	Satisfactory	Target
Content		Content is inaccurate and/or questions aren't answered in full. Content is minimal and provides little thought or reflection. Length is less than the required amount.	Content is accurate and questions are answered in full. There is little synthesis of information and answers lack depth.	Content is accurate and questions are answered in full. There is synthesis of information and answers are reflective.
Writing		Not APA style in writing or citations. Poor grammar and sentence structure. Poor transitions of thought. Multiple typographical errors, misspelled words, and incorrect use of punctuation. Excessive quotes.	Written communication is effective. There are minimal errors in grammar, spelling, and typos. Poor use of citations or lack of transition between cited work and original ideas.	APA style is on target. Effective written communication skills. No errors in grammar, spelling, or typos. Smooth transitions between cited work and original ideas.