

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY COURSE SYLLABUS
PSY 589: Personality

Test Required: Cloninger, S.C. (2000). *Theories of Personality: Understanding Persons*, (3rd ed.) Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, N.J.

Catalog Description: “The organization of the psychological characteristics which contribute to the uniqueness of the individual.”

Course Objectives: This course will provide the student with an overview of different theories of personality and individual differences. The student will become familiar with the historical bases of these theories, their applications in clinical settings, and relevance to non-clinical populations. Students will learn to critically evaluate the theories and research pertaining to the area of personality.

Prerequisites: PSY 180 and at least Junior standing.

Course Format: While primarily a lecture course, this class will include a variety of formats designed to encourage the students to think about the material as it applies to “real world” settings outside of the classroom. These activities will include in-class small group discussions, video presentations and writing activities. This course requires extensive reading from both the required text and outside materials on reserve in the library.

Requirements:

- I. Exams:** (400 points total) There will be a total of 4 in-class exams (including the final). The first 3 exams will be non-cumulative, focusing on the content of readings as well as lecture notes and in-class activities. The final exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material covered following the 3rd exam. (Note: Materials in each chapter or section builds upon that covered previously, so it is imperative that the students attend to all portions of the course.) Each exam will be worth 100 points. All students are expected to take the exam on the scheduled dates. **NO MAKE UP EXAMS** will be given unless the student provides the instructor with written documentation from a medical professional (or a funeral program) **AND** had informed the instructor of an **emergency prior** (preferably 24 hours, but at least one hour) to the scheduled time of the exam. Make up exams will be essay format.
- II. Writing Assignments:** (50 points total) Students will be given 6 one-page writing assignments to be assigned during class meetings. Assignments will be due either during the class period during which they are assigned or at that start of the following class period when assigned as homework. Each of these assignments will be worth a total of 10 points and the lowest will be dropped. (Note: If a student is absent and misses an assignment, it cannot be made up and will be counted as the one dropped.)
- III. Reading Assignments:** (50 points total) Several outside reading pertinent to the study of personality will be on reserve in the Waterfield library throughout the semester. Students are expected to select 2 of these to read and write a one-page

summary/critique of each. The assignments will be due at noted on the syllabus. Each of these assignments will be worth 25 points.

- IV. Paper:** (100 points) Each student will prepare a 3-5 page (typed, double spaced) paper regarding one of the theories discussed in class (i.e. Freudian psychoanalytic, Skinner's Behaviorism, etc.) For this paper, the student is asked to select one individual (real or fictional) and describe that individual's personality according to the chosen theory. Students will be expected to provide concrete examples of the individual's behavior and to fully describe the selected theory. Students may discuss topics with the instructor during her office hours or by scheduling an appointment. The instructor will read and provide feedback on any papers submitted at least 2 weeks before the paper is due. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Students enrolled for graduate credit will be required to submit an additional research paper and to complete additional readings/writing assignments. These students must notify the instructor no later than the 2nd week of class.

Grading Procedures: Final grades will be based on a possible total of 600 points (exams-400 points, writing assignments-50 points, paper-100 points). Grades will be calculated based upon the following scale.

A = 540-600
B = 480-539
C = 420-479
D = 360-419
E = Below 360

Extra Credit: As the goal of the course is for the students to learn and understand the material, one opportunity is presented for students who feel they have done poorly on an exam to earn extra credit. A student may opt to complete a second term paper which would be worth up to 50 points. In this case, the lowest exam grade (from the first 3 exams only) will be reduced in weight to only count 50% of its initial weight (from 100 points to 50).

Attendance Policy: This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's materials as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged materials as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.