



COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 301: Personality Psychology

Term: Fall Semester 2023-24 – Section 02 (Stevens Point Campus)

Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:45 am, D224 Science

Instructor: Craig A. Wendorf, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Contact: cwendorf@uwsp.edu, 715-346-2304 (with voicemail)

Website: <https://cwendorf/github.io>

Office: D240 Science Center, UWSP (Stevens Point Campus)

Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:30 pm and Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:45 am
Additional Office and Zoom hours available upon request

Course Overview

Prerequisites

Prior to this course, it is expected that you have already acquired a basic overview of psychology. *As such, it requires that you have completed PSYC 110 (Introduction to Psychology) or its equivalent.* It is strongly recommended that you have also completed PSYC 200 (Research Methods in Psychology).

Description and Objectives

This course examines contemporary approaches to the study of personality. It emphasizes clinical and experimental contributions to the understanding of personality and its structure. You will be introduced to a broad range of personality theories and, just as importantly, research that supports or challenges these viewpoints. Thus, it is my intention that while completing this course, you will:

- Course Learning Outcome 1: Explain the key characteristics of various theories and approaches to understanding human personality, including their respective advantages and disadvantages. (Aligns with APA Objective 1.1)
- Course Learning Outcome 2: Apply concepts from the psychology of personality to an understanding of one's own personality functioning. (Aligns with APA Objective 1.3)
- Course Learning Outcome 3: Examine psychological research as it pertains to the understanding, critique, and development of theories and concepts in personality psychology. (Aligns with APA Objective 2.1)
- Course Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate effective writing that communicates the understanding, application, and interpretation of personality psychology principles and research. (Aligns with APA Objective 4.1)

Teaching Philosophy

My job is to facilitate your achievement of these objectives. Thus, I am going to do what my professional training and experience suggest helps your long-term learning of important and relevant content and skills. To

that end, I emphasize timely reading of course materials, in-class participation, out-of-class activities and homework, and thorough examinations. Overall, you should not think of professors as lecturers or information deliverers, but rather as discussants, consultants, and guides in your education.

Additional descriptions of the learning outcomes, along with my beliefs about how they are best accomplished, are available online. These are recommended readings for students who wish to know more about why the course is conducted the way it is.

Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course, and it is available at text rental. If you decide to purchase or borrow the book through another source, please be sure to get the correct edition [Burger, J. M., & Reevy, G. M. (2023). *Personality* (11th ed.). Sage.]

A significant portion of this course will be delivered through the course management system Canvas (<https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/>). At various points throughout the course, you will use Canvas to view additional readings, download and upload documents, read documents online, and view online videos. Failure to report a problem in obtaining the course materials will be treated as a failure to complete the requirement.

Grading Policies

Point Values

Evaluation of student performance will be based on the course assessments listed below. No extra credit or other points are available for the course.

ASSESSMENTS OF OBJECTIVES	POSSIBLE POINTS
Part I: Overview and Dispositions	
Assignments 1-4 (Four assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam 1 (One exam @ 44 points)	44 points
Part II: Motives and Adaptations	
Assignments 5-8 (Four assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam 2 (One exam @ 44 points)	44 points
Part III: Goals and Identities	
Assignments 9-12 (Four assignments @ 4 points each)	16 points
Exam 3 (One exam @ 44 points)	44 points
TOTAL:	180 points

The course assignments are designed to provide you with opportunities to explore the main concepts, to apply the material, and to describe the research underlying the concepts. *You may confer with other students and the instructor if you have questions, but you must submit work that is your own.* These materials must be submitted via the Canvas dropbox and will be automatically checked by Turnitin.com for their originality. Feedback will be given online as well.

The in-class exams are a combination of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. *Though you will be expected to take these exams individually, you will be able to access a bank of essay questions before the exams and you will be permitted to use a single sheet of notes during the exam.*

The grading rubric used for all materials is available on Canvas and on the instructor web site. Students are strongly encouraged to review the rubric and the examples before doing the work.

Late Work and Make-Up Policies

Each due date is clearly marked on this syllabus and on the Canvas dropbox. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a due date for an assignment, you should submit the assignment before the due date. Late submissions will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date without penalty. After 48 hours, no late submissions are accepted.

Similarly, each exam will start promptly at the beginning of class on the scheduled exam day. Students who arrive late for an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student leaves the room. Exams must be completed and handed in at the end of the official exam period.

For all missed assignments and exams, I require notice no later than the morning of the due date or exam. Only students with instructor-validated documentation for the absence will be given an extension or a make-up exam; failure to follow this policy will result in an automatic zero for the assessment in question.

Unless you are taking an exam through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, all make-up exams will be proctored through the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences during one of the official make-up times. I will notify you of available times and you will be expected to schedule during one of these times. Under most conditions, make-up exams should be completed within one week of the original exam date.

Final Course Grades

Final course grades are determined by the percentage of possible points that you earn. The grades will be determined as follows:

COURSE GRADE	PERCENT OF TOTAL	POINTS EARNED
A	93% - 100%	166 – 180
A-	90% - 92%	161 – 165
B+	87% - 89%	155 – 160
B	83% - 86%	148 – 154
B-	80% - 82%	143 – 147
C+	77% - 79%	137 – 142
C	73% - 76%	130 – 136
C-	70% - 72%	125 – 129
D+	67% - 69%	119 – 124
D	60% - 66%	107 – 118
F	0% - 59%	000 - 106

A final grade of “Incomplete” will be given only under extreme circumstances. An Incomplete is not an option for students who feel overwhelmed by academics, work schedules, or extracurricular activities. Typically, an Incomplete must be completed within one semester otherwise an “F” will result.

Conduct and Accommodations

Personal Conduct

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment and has developed guidelines to ensure that each student can succeed. *All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the university's Community Rights and Responsibilities document (see <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>).*

Under federal and state laws, and university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature that occur both within and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct (i.e., cheating) will result in an automatic zero on that exam or assignment for all people involved. I will follow up on all cases in the manner described in Community Rights and Responsibilities document.

Representation of another person's work as your own (i.e., plagiarism) will result in an immediate rejection of the work. Any student who engages in plagiarism will be given the opportunity to repeat the work and have it graded appropriately. Consistent with university policy, a written reprimand will be placed in the student's disciplinary file. "Accidental plagiarism" – naiveté about what constitutes plagiarism – will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse.

Accommodations and Disabilities

If you have a condition that may impact your learning and/or participation in course activities, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will engage in an interactive process with students and identify appropriate academic accommodations and auxiliary services in accordance with the University's legal obligations. Instructors, students, and DRC staff work collaboratively to establish any necessary adjustments or supports. Accommodations are rarely applied retroactively so it is vital that students make timely requests. Please let me know if you have questions. The DRC is located in 108 Collins Classroom Center and can be reached at 715-346-3365 and drc@uwsp.edu. *I will follow all recommendations made by the Disability and Assistive Technology Center.*

If you are having difficulties of a personal (not academic) nature, I will refer you to the UWSP Counseling Center (Third Floor Delzell Hall, 715-346-3553, or at counsel@uwsp.edu). *Appropriate accommodations may be made for due dates, testing procedures, etc. at the instructor's discretion.*

Extra Assistance and Tutoring

If you would like extra assistance related to course materials or have any questions related to your performance in the course, please contact me as soon as possible. This should always be your first step in getting assistance, as most questions and concerns can be best addressed this way.

However, if you would prefer help from a student beyond your instructor or colleagues in this class, you should contact the UWSP Tutoring-Learning Center (<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/>, CCC Second Floor, 715-346-3568).

Course Schedule

General Structure

The goal is to spend class time on material not available elsewhere and to promote interaction among students, and then to use non-class time for activities that do not necessarily involve interaction. In the face-to-face class periods, we will discuss the main concepts and research findings associated with the topic for the week. On your own time, you will be expected to read material, watch short online videos, and complete outside assignments.

Topics and Due Dates

Below is a tentative schedule for the semester. *This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change.* It is the student’s responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

DATE	THEME AND TOPIC	PRE-CLASS READING	ASSIGNED (DUE)
PART I: OVERVIEW AND DISPOSITIONS			
Topic 1: The Field of Personality Psychology			
9-5	T01A: Introduction to the Course		
9-7	T01B: Overview of Personality	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 1)	
Topic 2: Methodological Issues			
9-12	T02A: Personality Assessment	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 2)	Assignment 1 (9-18)
9-14	T02B: Research Design		
Topic 3: Trait Approaches			
9-19	T03A: Trait Taxonomies	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 7)	Assignment 2 (9-25)
9-21	T03B: Traits Over Time		
9-26	T03C: Challenges for Trait Theories	Burger & Reevy (2023, pp. 176-195)	Assignment 3 (10-2)
Topic 4: Biological Approaches			
9-28	T04A: Physiological Theories	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 9)	
10-3	T04B: Behavioral Genetics	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 10)	Assignment 4 (10-9)
10-5	T04C: Evolutionary Theory		
Topic 5: First Exam			
10-10	T05A: Summarizing Approaches		
10-12	T05B: Exam 1		

PART II: MOTIVES AND ADAPTATIONS**Topic 6: Psychodynamic Approaches**

10-17	T06A: Psychoanalytic Theory	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 3 & 4)	Assignment 5 (10-23)
10-19	T06B: Contemporary Views	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 5)	
10-24	T06C: Psychosocial Theory	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 6)	Assignment 6 (10-30)

Topic 7: Humanistic Approaches

10-26	T07A: Psychological Needs	Burger & Reevy (2023, pp. 169-176)	
10-31	T07B: The Need for Growth	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 11)	Assignment 7 (11-6)
11-2	T07C: Self-Esteem and Self-Worth	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 12)	

Topic 8: Behavioral Approaches

11-7	T08A: Principles of Conditioning	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 13)	Assignment 8 (11-13)
11-9	T08B: Social Learning Theory	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 14)	

Topic 9: Second Exam

11-14	T09A: Summarizing Approaches		
11-16	T09B: Exam 2		

PART III: GOALS AND IDENTITIES**Topic 10: Cognitive Approaches**

11-21	T10A: Cognitive-Affective Principles	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch. 15)	Assignment 9 (11-27)
Online	T10B: Cognitive Distortions		
11-28	T10C: Self and Identity	Burger & Reevy (2023, Ch.16)	Assignment 10 (12-4)

Topic 11: Sociocultural Approaches

11-30	T11A: Gender/Sex and Personality	Larsen et al. (2020, Ch. 16)	
12-5	T11B: Culture and Personality	Larsen et al. (2020, Ch. 17)	Assignment 11 (12-11)
12-7	T11C: Social Interaction	Larsen et al. (2020, Ch. 15)	

Topic 12: System Approaches

12-12	T12A: Combining Concepts	McAdams & Pals (2006)	Assignment 12 (12-18)
12-14	T12B: Final Thoughts		

Topic 13: Third Exam

Online	T13A: Summarizing Approaches		
12-18	T13B: Exam 3 (2:45-4:45 pm)		