



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### PSYC 301: Personality Psychology

**Term:** Semester I (Fall), 2022-23 – Section 01 (Stevens Point Campus)

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

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

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

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

**Hours:** Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:30 pm; Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am

*If you have any questions, please talk to me directly or contact me via email, Teams, or Canvas. I generally respond to student messages within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours, please resend your message. In addition to my open office hours, I am available some additional times throughout the week (both in-person and via Zoom) by appointment.*

## Course Overview

### Prerequisites

Prior to taking 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).

### Course 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)

## Course Materials and Resources

### Course Textbook

There one required textbook for this class and it is available at text rental. Canvas includes a link to a document describing how to obtain the textbook if you cannot pick up the book directly on campus. If you decide to purchase or borrow the book through another source, please be sure to get the correct edition.

Burger, J. M. (2015). *Personality* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cengage Learning.

### Online Materials

A significant portion of this course will be delivered through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the Canvas Login Page (<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.*

## Course Grading Policies

### Evaluation of Performance

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

ASSESSMENTS OF OBJECTIVES	POINTS EARNED
<b>Part I: Methodological, Trait, and Biological Approaches</b>	
Assignments: 5 assignments @ 4 points each	_____ / 20 points
Exam: 1 exam @ 40 points	_____ / 40 points
<b>Part II: Psychodynamic, Humanistic, and Behavioral Approaches</b>	
Assignments: 5 assignments @ 4 points each	_____ / 20 points
Exam: 1 exam @ 40 points	_____ / 40 points
<b>Part III: Cognitive, Sociocultural, and Systems Approaches</b>	
Assignments: 5 assignments @ 4 points each	_____ / 20 points
Exam: 1 exam @ 40 points	_____ / 40 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>_____ / 180 points</b>

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 grading essay questions is also available on Canvas.

**Late Work and Make-Up Exam Policies**

*Each assignment’s 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.

*Similarly, each exam will start promptly at the beginning of class on the scheduled exam day.* Students who arrive late to an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student finishes and 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

*Final grades 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 has the opportunity to 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 there are factors creating difficulties for you in this course that are recognized disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please provide me with appropriate notification from the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (103 Student Services Center, 715-346-3365, or at <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/>). *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](mailto: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).

## Tentative 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.

### Specific Dates and Topics

This section offers 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	ASSIGNMENT (DUE)
<b>Part I: Methodological, Trait, and Biological Approaches</b>			
9-6-22	T01A: Introduction to the Course		
9-8-22	T01B: Overview of Personality	Burger (2015, Ch. 1)	
9-13-22	T02A: Research Design	Burger (2015, Ch.2)	Assignment 1 (9-19-22)
9-15-22	T02B: Personality Assessment		
9-20-22	T03A: Trait Taxonomies	Burger (2015, Ch. 7)	Assignment 2 (9-26-22)
9-22-22	T03B: Dispositions Over Time		
9-27-22	T03C: Challenges for Trait Theory	Burger (2015, pp. 195-205)	Assignment 3 (10-3-22)
9-29-22	T04A: Physiological Theories	Burger (2015, Ch. 9)	
10-4-22	T04B: Behavioral Genetics		Assignment 4 (10-10-22)
10-6-22	T04C: Evolutionary Theory	TBA	
10-11-22	T05A: Research Summary	Article	Assignment 5 (10-17-22)
10-13-22	T05B: Exam 1		
<b>Part II: Psychodynamic, Humanistic, and Behavioral Approaches</b>			
10-18-22	T06A: Psychoanalytic Theory	Burger (2015, Ch. 3 & 4)	Assignment 6 (10-24-22)
10-20-22	T06B: Contemporary Views	Burger (2015, Ch. 5)	
10-25-22	T06C: Psychosocial Theory	Burger (2015, Ch. 6)	Assignment 7 (10-31-22)
10-27-22	T07A: Psychological Needs	Burger (2015, pp. 184-192)	
11-1-22	T07B: Self-Actualization	Burger (2015, Ch. 11)	Assignment 8 (11-7-22)
11-3-22	T07C: Self-Esteem and Self-Worth	Burger (2015, Ch. 12)	
11-8-22	T08A: Principles of Conditioning	Burger (2015, Ch. 13)	Assignment 9 (11-14-22)
11-10-22	T08B: Social Learning Theory	Burger (2015, Ch. 14)	
11-15-22	T09A: Research Summary	Article	Assignment 10 (11-21-22)
11-17-22	T09B: Exam 2		

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**Part III: Cognitive, Sociocultural, and Systems Approaches**

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11-22-22	T10A: Cognitive-Affective Units	Burger (2015, Ch. 15)	Assignment 11 (11-28-22)
11-24-22	T10B: Cognitive Distortions	Burger (2015, pp. 206-218)	
11-29-22	T10C: Self-Concept	Burger (2015, Ch.16)	Assignment 12 (12-5-22)
12-1-22	T11A: Sex, Gender, and Personality	TBA	
12-6-22	T11B: Culture and Personality	Church (2008)	Assignment 13 (12-12-22)
12-8-22	T11C: Person-Situation Interaction	Buss (1987)	
12-13-22	T12A: Integrating Personality	McAdams & Pals (2006)	Assignment 14 (12-19-22)
12-15-22	T12B: Systems Theories		
Online	T13A: Research Summary	Article	Assignment 15 (12-22-22)
12-20-22	T13B: Exam 3 (10:15-12:15)		

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