

**PS 361: Personality**  
**Dr. Lori Toedter**  
**PPHAC 227**

**Fall 2009**  
**M/W 5b**

**Course Overview:** The course has been designed to approach the study of personality at both the theoretical and applied levels of analysis. We will examine the works of a wide range of theorists, with a focus on psychoanalytic, behavioral/social learning, humanistic, trait and cognitive approaches to personality. After learning about a given theorist's approach, we will apply this knowledge in various ways including through class discussion and activities and by taking a number of personality measures.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To become comfortable in discussing and thinking about personality using different theoretical perspectives.
2. To develop an awareness of the interesting contemporary research that is being conducted based on the various theories of personality.
3. To learn how theoretical personality constructs are measured, using a variety of psychological assessment devices.
4. To become experienced in the use of library resources and literature search strategies while collecting references for your review of an area of contemporary research on personality.

**Required Readings:**

Burger, Jerry M. (2008) Personality: Theory and Research (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.

Ashcraft, Donna (2009) Personality Theories Workbook (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) Belmont, Calif.: Thompson/Wadsworth.

***Students Please Note: I reserve the right to modify the class schedule/syllabus as needed to keep the course flowing smoothly. Only under extreme circumstances (e.g. multiple cancellations due to severe weather) will I change due dates for major assignments or exams.***

### Course Requirements:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Exams</b> (2 in class exams)                    | 30% (15% each) |
| <b>Literature Review</b>                           | 25%            |
| <b>Attendance, Assignments, Participation</b>      | 20%            |
| <b>Final Exam</b>                                  | 25%            |
| [15% last 1/3 of course; 10% open book cumulative] |                |

### Explanation of Course Requirements and Grading:

- (1) Both *in class exams* will be approximately 60% multiple choice and 40% essay. Neither of the two regular exams will be cumulative. However, should a student miss an exam or wish to raise a low grade, he or she will take a ***closed book cumulative final***. The score obtained on this cumulative final will then count twice. Once in place of the regular final exam and also as a replacement for the missed or low scoring exam.
- (2) The ***regular final exam*** will include a closed book portion of the material from the final third of the course. There will also be an open-book cumulative portion, which will be discussed in greater detail well in advance of the exam. [Note: Students taking the ***closed book cumulative final*** will still need to take the ***open book cumulative final*** to earn the final 10% of their grade.]
- (3) The paper will be a ***literature review*** based on no fewer than 5 articles from the psychological literature on Personality. Your text provides many examples of interesting areas of research which may serve as your starting point. Pay careful attention to the deadlines for various phases of the paper research and writing process. Missing deadlines will result in 3 points per day deducted from the Attendance/Assignments/Participation grade. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of 3 points per day deducted from the literature review grade. Instructions on the process of researching and writing the literature review will be distributed in class. Papers based upon unapproved reference lists will not be accepted.
- (4) ***Attendance, Assignments and Participation*** will make up the final 20% of your grade. I will keep track of ***attendance*** by asking you to sign an attendance sheet each day. Please be aware that since attendance is a part of your grade, signing another student in, or asking another student to sign you in, is a breach of Academic Honesty. The attendance portion of this grade will start at 100 points and will be reduced by 4 points for an unexcused absence, 2 points with a valid excuse (e.g. doctor's note, note from other professor or from Student Services). Library ***assignments*** completed correctly and on time will count toward this grade, as will completed answer sheets for the various personality tests you take. (Note: I will collect the answer sheets for the personality tests. These must be completed for use in class on the day they are covered to earn full credit. Your profile on the

test is your private property to be shared with me only if you desire.) Completing research chapter summary sheets will also serve as part of this grade. Your **participation** grade will be based on your group discussions of the cases in the workbook. These cases are assigned in your syllabus, and will be discussed on the date they are due. Groups will be assigned randomly, and will be reassigned when we complete one half of the discussions. Peer grading will be used to assist in determining this part of your grade.

- (5) **Extra Credit:** You may earn up to 4 extra points, which will be applied to your lowest test grade. You may earn 1 point per half hour spent participating in the psychology department subject pool. Reading and completing a blue sheet for a research area **not** assigned (from Chapters 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 or 16) is worth *up to 2* points.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Moravian has an official policy on Academic Honesty. The policy appears in your student handbook and is also available on AMOS. Be sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. The Psychology Department requires that APA format be used for referencing. I will be happy to clarify any points you may not understand.

### **Calculating your Grade:**

To calculate your final grade, I first add any extra credit points earned and then weight each grade according to the percentages given above. For example, if an exam is worth 15% and you score an 80 on it, I multiply (.15) (80) for a point total of 12. Adding these points together for all the grading components listed above will give you your final grade for the course (out of 100 points). These points are then converted to a letter grade as follows:

|                |   |    |
|----------------|---|----|
| 92.6-100       | = | A  |
| 89.6 – 92.5    | = | A- |
| 86.6– 89.5     | = | B+ |
| 82.6 – 86.5    | = | B  |
| 79.6 – 82.5    | = | B- |
| 76.6 – 79.5    | = | C+ |
| 72.6 – 76.5    | = | C  |
| 69.6 – 72.5    | = | C- |
| 66.6 – 69.5    | = | D+ |
| 62.6 – 66.5    | = | D  |
| 60.0 – 62.5    | = | D- |
| less than 60.0 | = | F  |

**Students Please Note: It is within the course instructor’s purview to use qualitative judgments in the assignment of grades. If at any time you have questions about where you stand in the course, please come see me.**

**Blackboard:**

Please logon to Blackboard for this course right away. In addition to posting changes to my office hours and reminders, I will post the syllabus, the course outline, your major grades and important handouts.

**Portfolios:** Beginning in the Fall of 2008, each student who majors in psychology will have a portfolio of writing assignments, completed as a part of his or her coursework, maintained by the department. Each psychology syllabus from this point forward will designate which writing assignment will be included in the portfolio. For this class, your literature review paper will serve as that writing assignment. Only psychology faculty members will have access to your portfolio, which will be used to assess and improve our ability to meet a major goal for our department: training our students to write professionally using APA style.

**Students with learning disabilities** who need special accommodations for this course should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer in Learning Services at 1307 Main Street (ext. 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from Learning Services based upon proper documentation of the conditions and needed accommodations. Use of a laptop in class is an accommodation requiring such documentation.

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 3:45-5:15pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:30am-12:15pm (may be held in PPHAC 112 as needed)

*or by appointment*

Please see Blackboard for any weekly revisions to regular office hours.

(email: [meljt01@moravian.edu](mailto:meljt01@moravian.edu)) (Telephone 610-861-1565)

e-mail is the preferred means of contacting me. Phone messages will be returned via e-mail, except for special circumstances. If you are using an e-mail address other than your college address, please let me know what it is.

### Class Schedule

| <u>Date</u>                           | <u>Topic</u>   | <u>Assignment DUE</u>   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| (1) Mon 8/31                          | Personality: An Overview   | None  |
| (2) Wed 9/2                           | Evidence-based Decision Making & Introduction to the Literature Review | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 1<br>Work on Long topic list  |
| <b><i>Labor Day---No classes.</i></b> |  |   |
| (3) Wed 9/9                           | Library Research Class<br>Location: Reeves Library                     | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 2<br><b><i>Long Topic List DUE</i></b>  |
| (4) Mon 9/14                          | <u>Psychoanalysis</u> : Freud  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 3<br>pp. 40-50  |
| (5) Wed 9/16                          | Freud (cont.)  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 3,<br>pp. 50-60; 65-68<br><b><i>Topic handout DUE</i></b>   |
| (6) Mon 9/21                          | Freud (cont.)  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 4<br>Dream Interp., pp. 72-78<br><b><i>*Defense Mech., pp. 78-83</i></b><br>Humor, pp. 84-89<br><b><i>*Hypnosis, pp. 89-95</i></b><br><br>*These 2 Research Summary Sheets due at exam. |
| (7) Wed 9/23                          | Freud (cont.)<br>Case discussions                                      | <u>Wkbk</u> , Case #2 (Freud) <b><i>and</i></b><br>Handout: "Girl Who Couldn't Breathe"<br>Begin work on Reference Sheet when topic is approved   |
| (8) Mon 9/28                          | <u>Neo-Freudians</u> : Jung  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 5, pp. 98-100;<br>105-109   |
| (9) Wed 9/30                          | Jung (cont.)   | <b><i>Scored Myers Briggs test DUE today</i></b>  |
| (10) Mon 10/5                         | Jung (cont.)   | <b><i>Reference sheet DUE today</i></b><br><u>Wkbk</u> Case #4 (Jung)   |

| <u>Date</u>                         | <u>Topic</u>  | <u>Assignment DUE</u>  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| (11) Wed 10/7                       | <b>EXAM #1</b> (through Jung: 10/5)   | Prepare for exam   |
| <b><i>Fall Break --- Enjoy!</i></b> |   |  |
| (12) Wed 10/14                      | <u>Neo-Freudians</u> : Erikson  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 5, pp. 109-116   |
| (13) Mon 10/19                      | <u>Neo-Freudians</u> : Erikson (cont.)  | <b><i>Scored MPD DUE today</i></b><br><u>Wkbk</u> . Case #6 (Erikson)  |
| (14) Wed 10/21                      | <u>Neo-Freudians</u> : Adler  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 5, pp. 100-105<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 6, pp. 137-144<br><b><i>(Psychoanalytic Concepts &amp; Aggression)</i></b>   |
| (15) Mon 10/26                      | <u>Neo-Freudians</u> : Horney   | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 5, pp. 116-120,<br>125-126; Chap. 6, pp. 144-<br>152 ( <b><i>Attachment Style</i></b> )<br><u>Wkbk</u> Case #7 (Adler)   |
| (16) Wed 10/28                      | Overview: Trait Theories<br>(New discussion groups<br>assigned: Peer grading forms) | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 7, pp.154-158,<br>pp. 171-177<br><u>Wkbk</u> Case #10 (Horney)   |
| (17) Mon 11/2                       | <u>Traits</u> : Allport   | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 7, pp. 158-161<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 8, pp. 201-206<br><b><i>(Type A, Hostility &amp; Health)</i></b>   |
| (18) Wed 11/4                       | <u>Traits</u> : Allport & Murray  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 7, pp. 161-163;<br>Chap. 8, pp. 206-212 ( <b><i>Social Anxiety</i></b> )<br><u>Wkbk</u> Case #29 (Allport)<br><b><i>Last Date for Approval of Final Reference List</i></b> |
| (19) Mon 11/9                       | <u>Traits</u> : Cattell<br>& The Big 5  | <b><i>Scored 16PF DUE today</i></b><br><u>Burger</u> , Chap.7, pp. 164-171,<br>187-188   |
| (20) Wed 11/11                      | <u>Behaviorism</u> : Overview &<br>Skinner  | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 13, pp. 357-<br>367  |
| (21) Mon 11/16                      | <b>EXAM #2</b> (Erikson through<br>Cattell & Big 5)                                 | Prepare for exam   |

| <u>Date</u>                                 | <u>Topic</u>   | <u>Assignment DUE</u>   |
|---|--|---|
| (22) Wed 11/18                              | <u>Behaviorism</u> : Skinner (cont.)                                     | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 13, pp. 368-382; 386-390  |
| (23) Mon 11/23                              | <u>Social Learning</u> : Bandura & Rotter                                | <u>Wkbk</u> Case #23 (Skinner)<br><b><i>Lit Review Paper</i></b><br><b><i>DUE today</i></b>   |
| <b><i>Thanksgiving Break --- Enjoy!</i></b> |  |   |
| (24) Mon 11/30                              | <u>Social Learning</u> : Bandura & Rotter                                | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 14, pp. 412-418 ( <b><i>Learned Helplessness</i></b> )<br><u>Wkbk</u> : Case #26 (Bandura)  |
| (25) Wed 12/2                               | <u>Humanism</u> : Maslow   | <u>Burger</u> , Chap. 11, pp. 287-292, 297-308<br><u>Wkbk</u> : Case #28 (Rotter)<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 14, pp. 418-425 ( <b><i>Locus of Control</i></b> ) |
| (26) Mon 12/7                               | <u>Humanism</u> : Rogers   | <u>Wkbk</u> : Case #15 (Maslow)<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 11, pp. 292-297, 312-18<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 12, pp. 332-339 ( <b><i>Loneliness</i></b> )        |
| (27) Wed 12/9                               | <u>Humanism</u> : Rogers (cont.)<br>Peer Evaluations (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½) | <u>Wkbk</u> : Case #17 (Rogers)<br><u>Burger</u> , Chap. 12, pp. 349-354 ( <b><i>Solitude</i></b> )<br><b><i>Q-Sort DUE today</i></b>                         |

Final Exam: Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm [Skinner through Rogers *plus* Open Book Cumulative]