

**PSYCHOLOGY 3314: PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY
FALL, 2009**

Instructor: Dr. William Ickes
Office Hours: 2:00-2:50 MW in 510 LS
Lectures: 11:00-11:50 MWF in 124 LS

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Textbooks: *Personality* (7th edition) by Jerry M. Burger
Strangers in a Strange Lab, by William Ickes

Course Description and Goals: This is a course on the psychology of personality. It covers the major theoretical approaches to the study of human personality and encourages an evaluation of these approaches in the light of relevant empirical research. It is an upper-division course for which a course in introductory psychology is a prerequisite, and a course in psychological statistics is useful but not required.

The goal of the course is to introduce students to the psychology of personality and to help them master the basic content of this field. To achieve this goal, students will find it necessary to read each of the assigned chapters twice: first, when the chapter is assigned; and, second, in advance of the scheduled exam. Past experience has indicated that a single reading of the chapters is insufficient preparation to do well this course, and that failure to read the chapters usually results in a failing grade (F).

Attendance Policy: In educational contexts, as in the workplace, people who show up for work every day are entitled to greater benefits than people who don't. The benefit to people who show up every day in this course will be 15 attendance points that will be applied to the total points they earn during the semester before final grades are computed.

Attendance will be taken 5 times during the semester on randomly determined class days. All students who are present on these "attendance days" will receive 3 attendance points for each day they are present. Students who are present on all 5 days will receive the maximum of 15 attendance points, whereas students who are present on none of these 5 days will receive the minimum of 0 (zero) attendance points. Students who are present on 1, 2, 3, or 4 of these days will receive 3, 6, 9, or 12 attendance points, respectively. In previous semesters, the number of attendance points earned has been found to correlate about .40 with the number of total points earned in this course. Attendance points provide one way to measure students' level of motivation and involvement in the course.

Important Dates:

September 9: Census date
October 30: Last day to drop courses
December 9: Final exam (Exam 3) in 124 LS from 11 to 1:30 pm

Course Outline:

Aug	24	Introduction
	26-28	Chapter 1, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 1, <i>Strangers</i>
	31-4	Chapter 2, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 2, <i>Strangers</i>

Sep	7-9	Chapter 3, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 3, <i>Strangers</i>
	11-14	Chapter 4, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 4, <i>Strangers</i>
	16-21	Chapter 5, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 5, <i>Strangers</i>
	23	Exam 1 60 multiple-choice questions
	25	Review of Exam 1
Oct	28-2	Chapter 6, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 6, <i>Strangers</i>
	5-9	Chapter 7, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 7, <i>Strangers</i>
	12-16	Chapter 8, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 8, <i>Strangers</i>
	19-21	Chapter 9, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 9, <i>Strangers</i>
	23-28	Chapter 10, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 10, <i>Strangers</i>
	30	Exam 2 60 multiple-choice questions
Nov	2	Review of Exam 2
	4-6	Chapter 11, <i>Personality</i> ; Chapter 11, <i>Strangers</i>
	9-11	Chapter 12, <i>Personality</i>
	13-16	Chapter 13, <i>Personality</i>
	18-20	Chapter 14, <i>Personality</i>
	23-25	Chapter 15, <i>Personality</i>
	30-2	Chapter 16, <i>Personality</i>
Dec	4	Some Concluding Observations
	9	Exam 3 60 multiple-choice questions

Grading: Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on the three in-class exams and the number of attendance points you earn (see below).

Your final grade in the course will be determined by the total number of points you earn. Grade assignment will begin by first taking the absolute performance criterion into account (for example, if everyone in the class got 80% or more of the total points for the course, everyone in the class would receive a final course grade of at least a "B"). If the absolute performance criterion results in a less generous final grade distribution than would result from the application of a curve, a curve will be used instead of the absolute performance criterion to determine final course grades. To give you some idea of how you are progressing in the class, a **hypothetical grade breakdown** will be given after each of the first two exams, but **no actual grades will be assigned at these points**. Actual grades will be assigned only as final course grades, at the end of the semester.

In case it is not already obvious, your grade in this course is your responsibility. Any attempts to plead for an undeserved higher grade at the end of the term will fall on deaf ears.

Exams and Make-up Exams: You are expected to be on time for each of the scheduled exams. **If you arrive more than 20 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Plan to come early on the days that exams are scheduled.**

Make-ups will be given for the first two exams only, and then only if you provide a written, documented excuse (from a physician, the Dean of Students, etc.) indicating that your absence from the regularly scheduled exam was both justified and unavoidable. **No exceptions to this rule will be made.**

Extra Credit Option: If you would like to earn extra credit in the course, you can create and submit multiple-choice questions based on the material covered in *Strangers in a Strange Lab*. An extra credit point will be assigned for no more than one usable multiple-choice question per

chapter, for a total of 11 possible extra-credit points. A usable multiple-choice question is one that is reasonably challenging (the answer isn't obvious), addresses an aspect of the chapter worth learning (not a trivial point), and has a correct answer that is justifiably better than the alternative answers. Each multiple-choice question should be submitted on an index card that has your name and e-mail address printed on one side and the question and its corresponding chapter number printed on the other side.

Active Learning Experiences and Course Goals: During the semester, you will have the opportunity to take various personality measures on-line. These on-line self-assessments will serve as active learning experiences that are designed to complement your reading and class attendance this semester. Your goals for the semester will not only include learning the course material but also using the on-line personality assessments to gain a better understanding of your own personality.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center), which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Student Support Services: UTA supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the university and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Library Information: Helen Hough is the Psychology Librarian. She can be reached by phone at 817-272-7429, and by e-mail at hough@uta.edu. You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-psych.html>.

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition: If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar's Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with university regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the university. "Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid the

cancellation of presentations/tests because of bomb threats. Unannounced alternative sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternative class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

E-mail Protocol: Whenever you send an e-mail message to me, please put the class name in the subject line of your e-mail. Inside the body of the e-mail message, please insert your full name and the class name. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail messages in a prompt manner.

Beepers and Cell Phones: Please turn off all pagers, beepers and cell phones during class, as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me. Any use of these devices in class will result in your being asked to leave the classroom immediately.