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**SYLLABUS**

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**Please note:** *Psychology of Personality* has the prerequisite of *Introduction to Psychology* (or an equivalent course). You should not take this course if you have **not** had *Introduction to Psychology*.

**Welcome to *Psychology of Personality!***



***PSYC 310, Psychology of Personality*** is a course that invites you to think deeply, and in new ways, about human life, what you are like as a person, how you got to be that way, and what it might take to enrich your life.

*Psychology of Personality* is a completely on-line course. There will be no in-person meetings at all. There will be readings, group discussions, exams, and a paper, just as a regular course might have. If you have not taken an on-line course before, it may take a little time to get accustomed to it. If you have a computer with reliable, reasonably fast Internet service, and you are familiar with Sakai, you should be fine. Complete, detailed directions will be given to you.

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**Message from IT Services:**

For questions about Sakai please contact llewis@shepherd.edu.

**PC Users:** We have noticed that there have been issues with using the IE9 (Internet Explorer) browser with Sakai. We have noticed that documents will not open or download. At this time, we recommend the Mozilla/Firefox browser. This is a free download: <http://www.mozilla.org/>.

**MAC Users:** The Sakai environment is NOT compatible with the Safari browser. Please use the Firefox browser.

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**NOTE: Use "Lessons" (on Sakai) to guide you through this course.** In "Lessons" you will find complete directions for each week, including complete instructions and due dates for all graded assignments. For quick reference, all assignment due dates can also be viewed in the schedule at the end of this syllabus. (You might want to print this syllabus and schedule.) You can also view them by clicking on "**Calendar**", on the left-hand menu on Sakai. Be sure to familiarize yourself with this schedule of assignments. The summer session will move quickly!

I will call your attention to any changes in "**Announcements**", on Sakai. These announcements will also be e-mailed to you -- so be sure to check your e-mail regularly. E-mail me (see contact information, below) with any problems or questions you might have. I will generally respond within 24 hours (often, sooner than that).

**Make sure you have a backup computer in case your computer at home stops working.** Some alternatives are the computer labs on campus or in the library, public libraries, or a friend's or relative's computer.

**Please read over this syllabus, and let me know if you have questions.**  
(When you are ready to begin the work of the course, click on "**Lessons**" on the left-hand menu, then "**Start here**".)

**Detailed course information:**

**Professor:** Dr. Anne Murtagh [amurtagh@shepherd.edu](mailto:amurtagh@shepherd.edu) Best to contact me by e-mail. If you need to, you can call me at home 9-5 on weekdays (301-722-2056).

**PLEASE NOTE:** I will generally check e-mail several times a day on weekdays between 9 and 5. During the week, I will generally respond to e-mail from you within 24 hours. On evenings and weekends I will NOT check e-mail regularly, but I will get back to you the next weekday morning.

**Required Textbook: *The Personality Puzzle, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*, by David C. Funder  
(W. W. Norton & Company, 2013) ISBN: 978-0-393-91311-8**

**Catalog description:** A study of a variety of theories of personality determinants, structure, and functioning. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 (Intro. to Psychology).

*Shepherd University has adopted the LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) Essential Learning Outcomes and competencies. The LEAP outcomes and competencies of this course are:*

- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
  - Specifically, knowledge of human personality and behavior, including cultural variations in experience, behavior, and personality
- Intellectual and Practical Skills, specifically:
  - Critical and creative thinking
  - Written communication
  - Information literacy
  - Collaboration/teamwork

***American Psychological Association OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES***

***After taking this course, students will***

- 1.1 Use scientific reasoning to interpret behavior.
- 1.2 Demonstrate psychology information literacy.
- 4.4 Enhance teamwork capacity.
- 5.1 Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in the psychology of personality.
- 5.2 Develop a working knowledge of the psychology of personality.
- 5.3 Describe applications of the psychology of personality.

## GRADING

To obtain your final grade for the course, I will total up your points:

- 1 pt. for paper topic submitted on time
- 9 pts. for summaries (3 summaries, 3 pts. each)
- 20 pts. for your paper
- 30 pts. for group discussions (5 discussions, 6 pts. each)
- 40 pts. for exams (4 exams, 10 pts. each; 3 regular exams and a final exam)

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100 pts. total

**You can always view your grades in Gradebook, on left-hand menu.** By Monday of each week, I will usually post the grades for the previous week's assignments, and if you go to **Gradebook** on the Sakai site, you can view your grades. Since there are 100 total points in the course, at the end of the semester, you can easily see what your grade is. (E.g., if you have earned a total of 83 points, you have an 83%, or a B, in the course.)

**As I said above:**

**Make sure you use "Lessons" (see left-hand menu on Sakai) to guide you through this course.** In "Lessons" you will find complete directions for each week, including complete instructions and due dates for all graded assignments, and links to online videos and activities.

## PAPER (20 pts.)

**DUE Tues., June 23**

**NOTE:** Submit your paper topic, summaries, and the paper itself by placing them into your **DropBox**, on left-hand menu. (Just click on your Drop Box, then upload your paper. If you have any difficulties, make sure you are using Mozilla Firefox as your browser.) You will also submit the paper to Turnitin (see details below).

The **goal of this paper** is to **explore some of the scientific studies** that have been done to test one of the **theories or concepts we are discussing in this course**.

Take one theory or concept from our personality course and write a paper that **summarizes and analyzes 3 empirical studies that have been done on that theory or concept**. (E.g., you could look for any 3 empirical studies related to any aspect of Jung's theory, or you could find 3 articles focusing on one concept, like Bandura's idea of *self-efficacy*.)

When I say "empirical studies" I mean specific reports of scientific studies that were conducted. To be sure your articles are descriptions of empirical studies, **look for separate sections in the article describing their participants, methods used, specific statistics and results, etc.**

**Use the library databases** to search for articles from professional, peer-reviewed journals in psychology and related fields. (Best to use PsycInfo or PsycArticles, from the library's electronic databases, or Google Scholar). Ask me, or consult a reference librarian, if you are not clear about how to locate appropriate articles. **You will need to comb through** the articles you locate that are related to your topic. **Many will not be empirical studies** – they may be theoretical articles, review articles, or case studies. One theoretical, review, or case study article can be used, but no more than one.

**Many of the articles you find will be quite difficult to read** (remember -- these articles are written for scientists who specialize in this area!). Others will be more readable and understandable (with some effort on your part). Naturally, if you want to write a quality paper, **be careful to choose articles that you can mostly understand.** (Results sections are particularly difficult for novices in the area – if you do not follow all the statistical analyses, that is OK, but **you should have a basic grasp of what they did and how they did it.**) Avoid very technical articles – e.g., meta-analyses, or articles about neuropsychology, genetics, or physiology.

**It is very important to cite your sources appropriately.** You should **be clear about the source of every statement of fact you make.** If you are describing the results of a study, you only need to cite at the beginning when you identify the study, as long as it is clear that the rest of the description is from that same source. You do NOT need to cite the source for statements of common knowledge (e.g., “People are often interested in their own personality”), for your own thoughts or observations, or for questions you are raising based on your observations. (**See the sample APA paper under “Resources”, left-hand menu, for illustrations of appropriate citing.**)

Paper should be in **APA style (see sample APA paper under “Resources”)** 8-10 pages (including cover page, abstract, and references), in 10-12 pt. type, with 1-in. margins. Include:

- Separate **cover page** in APA style
- **Abstract** on separate page, double-spaced. The abstract should summarize your paper – an introductory sentence about the theory, 1-2 sentences for each article, summarizing what they did and what they found, and a sentence about what can be concluded.
- **Main body** of your paper should have these sections, each with their own heading (but not on separate pages).
  - ❖ **overview** of the theory or concept (approx. 1-2 pages – use our text or another source of information for this, and **be sure to cite your sources appropriately**);
  - ❖ **3 empirical studies**: for each study, describe the central question of interest, methods, results, and conclusions (about 1-1/2 to 2 pages for each);
  - ❖ **critique and conclusions**: First evaluate the 3 studies – are they logical? Do the methods they use make sense and lead to the conclusions they draw? Are they well-controlled studies – i.e., did they take care to eliminate other possible explanations for the results? Was there an adequate sample size (no. of participants), and were participants balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, SES, etc.? Based on the quality of the research and the findings, what can we conclude overall about this theory? That is, **are the theory and key concepts supported by this research?** (1-2 pages)
- **References** page. List your references (your 3 articles and whatever other sources you use) in APA style.

Start thinking about your topic now (comb through the book and see what interests you), and be sure to **allow yourself ample time to locate articles** related to your topic that you can understand. It is **difficult to tell much from just an abstract – you will need to review the article itself** before you decide whether to use it.

**Submit your paper topic** to me through **Drop Box** (by **5 pm on Fri., May 29**) -- just **state your topic specifically and list the 3 articles you will use in APA style. (1 pt.)**

*Example of APA-style reference entry:*

Pinquart, M., & Sorenson, S. (2001). Influences on loneliness in older adults: A meta-analysis. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology, 23*, 245-266.

**By 5 pm on Tuesday of each week (starting June 2, then June 9 and 16), submit one summary** of one of your empirical articles (**each worth 3 pts.**). Each one should be 1-2 full double-spaced pages in length. Be sure to describe the general question or hypothesis, the methods, the results, and conclusions that were drawn. Then in your paper you will describe and discuss these studies in a well-organized, coherent paper.

**When you are summarizing and analyzing these articles, BE SURE TO WRITE COMPLETELY IN YOUR OWN WORDS!** If material is not in quotation marks, it must be completely re-worded. In addition, you must cite the source for anything that is not your own ideas and thoughts (as described above). If you find a quote that you think will add substantially to a paper, you must use quotation marks around the quote, and give the precise source of that quote, including the author, source, and page no. But, in general, avoid using quotes in a short paper like this.

### **Turnitin**

In addition to submitting your paper to me (in your DropBox on Sakai), it is required that you submit your paper to **Turnitin.com** for an originality report – i.e., a report of how much your paper matches up to existing papers in their (very extensive) database. To do this, go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and create an account (it is free).

For Turnitin, our **class ID is 9966125** and the **password is psychperson**  
(case-sensitive)

On Turnitin, I have set up “Paper draft” and “Paper”. “Paper draft” is optional – it is a way for you to submit your paper ahead of time to see the originality report, then revise, if needed. **When your paper is complete, submit it to “Paper”.** Please note that when you submit your paper to Turnitin, it becomes part of its database. Let me know if you have any problem with this.

View your Turnitin report to see how much your paper matches up with other sources. (It may take a few minutes to generate your report.) If there are places where your paper matches up closely (5 or 6-word phrases) with other sources, that is a problem. If your Turnitin report is high (total of more than 15%, OR more than 2% from any one source), you may lose points. To avoid this, you can revise your paper, and e-mail me the revised version. Be sure to tell me that this is a revised version and specifically describe the changes you made.

**If significant plagiarism is evident in your paper, you may receive a grade of 0 for the paper or for the course; suspension or expulsion are other possibilities, especially for repeat offenders. (See policy on academic integrity, below.)**

If you submit your summaries or paper late, points will be deducted for each day they are late. Don't forget there is a **sample APA-style paper under “Resources”, left-hand menu.**

**Any questions about the paper? Please e-mail me! amurtagh@shepherd.edu**

### **EXAMS (4 exams, 10 pts. each)**

Exams will be multiple-choice and some essays. There will be 4 exams (3 regular exams and the final exam). The final will be comprehensive, covering the whole session, but will count for 10 pts. of your grade, like the others.

- There will be some questions on each exam based on key terms (in bold) or main ideas (see Summary) from the chapter, which were not always covered by the focus questions or in Powerpoints. If you want to do well, read and study the textbook, in addition to the Powerpoint lectures.
- You can get clues about what essay questions might be from the Powerpoints.

**You are on your honor NOT to use any form of help in taking exams.** This means NOT referring to the book, your notes, or Powerpoints, or getting help from the Internet or other people. It may be tempting to seek help; it is an indication of your own character and moral values how well you resist that temptation. You will be asked to endorse an **honor pledge** whereby you certify that you have not had any kind of help (from books, notes, the Internet, or another person) while you take the exam. Let me also warn you that the exams are set up so that you have a very limited amount of time per question. You really will not have time to seek help. So read and prepare, then see how well you can do!

### **GROUP DISCUSSIONS (5 Discussion Questions, or DQs; 6 pts. each)**

Each week there will be a question for you to address. (Click on **Chat Room**, on left-hand menu. Click on "Change Room", then select the Chat Room for your group for that week.) Discussion questions will be posted each week by Mon. at 5 pm, and must be completed by Thurs. at 5 pm.

You will be divided up into 2 groups, Alpha and Beta. See Announcements for group assignments. Each week you will go to the Chat Room for your group for that week. Post a response to the question, and reply to at least 2 others' responses. For full credit, your answer and responses should be original, detailed, thoughtful, and should reflect a careful reading and studying of the course material.

**DON'T WAIT until Thurs. to participate in these Group Discussions!** Try to post a response on Mon. evening or Tuesday, then come back to read others' responses and reply to them. If everyone waits until Thursday afternoon, it won't be much of a discussion!

**By Monday of each week, I will post the grades for the previous week's assignments, and if you go to "Gradebook" on the left-hand menu, you can view your grades.**

*Questions for Discussion Question 1: What is your favorite musical performer or group? AND What are you especially looking forward to this summer?*

## **CLASS POLICIES**

### **Policy on academic integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Texting or other discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

**Plagiarism is taking credit for the ideas or statements of someone else, presenting it as your own work.** It is becoming more common these days, as people cut and paste material from the Internet, and falsely submit it as their own writing. **However, there are ways to detect this dishonesty. Plagiarism is a serious act, and it will be reported to the Dean of the College. Suspension or dismissal from the college are possible consequences.** If you have any questions at all about what is OK and what is not, please ask me. For more information about the university's policies related to academic honesty, please see the Shepherd University Student Handbook.

### **Exam Makeup Policy**

Students are only allowed to make up an examination if an emergency prevents them from completing the exam that day. ("Not feeling well" is not an adequate excuse.) Written documentation verifying the emergency must be provided. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

### **Shepherd Late Work Policy**

Late work is not accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Please contact me to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

**Disability Support Services 304-876-5689**

**Michael Madden, Director [mmadden@shepherd.edu](mailto:mmadden@shepherd.edu)**

Please feel free to contact me (e-mail or call – see contact information on page 2) if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or if I can be of service to you in any way. Please communicate with me about any problems or frustrations, and I will help you one way or another. You can trust that I will be flexible and fair with you.

**Here we go! Let's have a great semester!**

**(To begin with our course, click on "Lessons" on left-hand menu, then "Start here".)**

**Some Shepherd University resources that you might find helpful:**

**Sakai help** First try the "Help" button at the bottom of left-hand menu -- there is abundant information there. If you get stuck, contact me or Lauryl Lewis at [llewis@shepherd.edu](mailto:llewis@shepherd.edu) or 304-876-5059.

**IT Services** User Support Desk 304-876-5457  
Main IT No. 304-876-5245 email: [support@shepherd.edu](mailto:support@shepherd.edu)

**Academic Support Center, Lower level of Scarborough Library (LIB 103)**  
[www.shepherd.edu/ascweb](http://www.shepherd.edu/ascweb); (304) 876-5221; 8:00 – 4:30 am  
Free tutoring or writing assistance.

**Office of Counseling Services** Free counseling services are available to SU students. Located in Gardiner Hall **PHONE: (304) 876-5276**

### **SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**NOTE:** This is just a reminder of due dates. **Remember, use "Lessons" to guide you through this course. All assignments are explained in detail in "Lessons", and in "Lessons" you will also find links to all videos.**

- **Graded assignments are also explained in detail in "Assignments".**
- **In "Resources" you will find all of the Powerpoints, as well as other resources you might find helpful.**
- **Discussions will take place in "Chat Room", and you will find the Questions there.**
- **Exams will be available in "Tests and Quizzes".**

You can find links to all of these areas and other important course information on the left-hand menu of our class Sakai site.

**May 12-25 Make sure you have the textbook by the 25<sup>th</sup>!**  
Begin familiarizing yourself with the text, begin reading chap 1.  
Browse through the textbook & think about a paper topic.

## Tues., May 26 COURSE BEGINS

### Week One (May 26-29)

Complete “**Start Here**” module in “Lessons” (see menu on left on Sakai)  
Read **chaps. 1-3** in textbook and review the Powerpoints (in “Resources”)

**Try for Yourself 2.1** on p. 32 of textbook

View **video on research in Psychology** (see link in “Lessons”)

By 5 pm on Thurs., May 28, complete **Discussion Question 1** (DQ1; in “Chat Room”)

- Monday or Tuesday evening respond to **Discussion Question 1**

- By 5 pm Thurs., at least 2 replies to group members

By 5 pm on Fri., May 29, submit **paper topic** to “Drop Box”

### Week Two (June 1-5)

Read **chaps. 4-7** in textbook and review Powerpoints (in “Resources”)

**Try for Yourself 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2** in textbook

By 5 pm on Tues., June 2, submit **Summary 1** to “Drop Box”

By 5 pm on Thurs., June 4, complete **Discussion Question 2** (DQ2; in “Chat Room”)

- Monday or Tuesday evening respond to **Discussion Question 2**

- By 5 pm Thurs., at least 2 replies to group members

By 5 pm on Fri., June 5, submit **Exam 1** (go to “Tests and Quizzes”)

### Week Three (June 8-12)

Read **chaps. 8, 10, 11, and 12** (skip chap. 9), and review the Powerpoints (in “Resources”)

View **video about brain research** (see link in “Lessons”)

Optional: view Youtube **videos about Freud and Jung** (see links in “Lessons”)

By 5 pm on Tues., June 9, submit **Summary 2** to “Drop Box”

By 5 pm on Thurs., June 11, complete **Discussion Question 3** (DQ3; in “Chat Room”)

- Monday or Tuesday evening respond to **Discussion Question 3**

- By 5 pm Thurs., at least 2 replies to group members

By 5 pm on Fri., June 12, submit **Exam 2** (go to “Tests and Quizzes”)

### Week Four (June 15-19)

Read **chaps. 13, 15, and 16** (skip chap. 14), and review the Powerpoints (in “Resources”)

**Try for Yourself 16.1** in textbook

View “**Gratitude HD Moving Arts**” video (see link in “Lessons”)

By 5 pm on Tues., June 16, submit **Summary 3** to “Drop Box”

By 5 pm on Thurs., June 18, complete **Discussion Question 4** (DQ4; in “Chat Room”)

- Monday or Tuesday evening respond to **Discussion Question 4**
  - By 5 pm Thurs., at least 2 replies to group members
- By 5 pm on Fri., June 19, submit **Exam 3** (go to “Tests and Quizzes”)

**Week Five (June 22-24)**

Read **chaps. 17-19**, and review the Powerpoints (in “Resources”)

View video, “**The Self**” (see link in “Lessons”)

By 5 pm on Tues., June 23, submit **Paper** to “Drop Box” and also to Turnitin

By 5 pm on **Wed., June 24**, complete **Discussion Question 5** (DQ5; in “Chat Room”)

- Monday or Tuesday evening respond to **Discussion Question 5**
  - By 5 pm **Wed.**, at least 2 replies to group members
- ALSO by 5 pm on Wed., June 24**, submit **Final Exam** (go to “Tests and Quizzes”)

**NOTE that this is a short week –**

**DQ 5 and the Final Exam are both due on Wed. the 24!**