Syllabus for Psyc217: Theories of Personality

[Note: This syllabus is not specific to any semester. It is a general overview of the actual syllabus. Once you have enrolled in the course, you will log on to the course Home Page and view the specific syllabus for your semester.

For those interested in where exams are taken for this course—see below to read that all exams are taken at a testing center near the student, but quizzes are taken on-line.]

Course Description

The purpose of Psyc217: Theories of Personality is to provide the student with an introduction to the major topics, theories, and research in personality psychology. This course will introduce the student to six important domains of knowledge about human nature and personality functioning, representing the contemporary state of the field. The goal of this course is to enjoy the exploration of the idea that human beings are like all others, like some others, and like no others.

Prerequisites

Introduction to Psychology (Psyc101) is a prerequisite

Textbook


Instructor Information

Instructor: **Dr. Josephine Lewis**
Phone: (410) 455-4424 *(recommend you use email for faster response)*
Office: Administration-Faculty Bldg, Rm 337
E-Mail: send through Web-CT or use CCBC email at jlewis4@ccbcmd.edu

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe how the study of psychological principles applies to personality.
- Describe the Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design used in personality psychology.
- Understand and describe the six domains of knowledge through which the field is exploring human nature and this thing called 'personality'.

- Compare and contrast these domains of knowledge in the study of personality.
- Describe the core theorists involved in the exploration of personality.
- Compare and contrast these theorists in the study of personality.
- Produce a written paper examining the life of a noteworthy individual through the different domains of knowledge in personality.

How to prepare your notes to study

In this course, we will be viewing chapter outlines, viewing PowerPoint slides, reading the textbook, listening to class lectures on audio, and viewing video clips of related information. **I strongly suggest that you prepare your notes ahead of time before listening to the audio lectures.** You will do this by printing out the chapter outlines and taking notes from the textbook before listening to the audio lectures. Organize your notes in hierarchical form, just as the outlines are organized (use Roman numeral I., then capital A., etc). Leave space after all the topics on the outline after you write the information and definitions from your textbook. **You will fill in the spaces with information from the audio class lectures.** If you do this, you will be able to listen to the chapter lectures and take notes without missing extensive amounts of information because you are trying to figure out what to write and what not to (your outlines will tell you what is important). You will also find this information in the Prepping Your Notes folder on the course home page. **This is very important for success in this course.** 

If you still have questions regarding how to do this, please call or email me.

How You Will Earn Points in This Course

**Quizzes:** There will be three quizzes, as indicated on the course calendar at the end of this syllabus (dates will also be specified in the course schedule that students can access from the Course Tools menu on the left side of the Home Page). **Quizzes will be taken and submitted on-line.** Students will have 17 minutes to take each quiz. Because they will be timed, it is imperative that students study for each quiz with the expectation of not using their notes or textbook. If students have to look up information in their notes or text, they will not have enough time to finish the quiz in the allotted time.

Each quiz will be available to be taken on-line for a specific amount of time (about a week). Students cannot take the quiz before or after the allowed time frame. Students must make sure they check the schedule/course calendar for weeks they should be taking a quiz on-line. **Check all the due dates on the schedule below and let me know the first week of class if you need to take a Quiz before the allotted timeframe.**
**Exams**: There will be a total of three exams to be taken **in person** at a Testing Center near the student. If you live near one of the three CCBC campuses, you will take the exams at the closest Testing Center to you (Catonsville, Essex, or Dundalk). If you do not live near one of the CCBC campuses, you and I will determine which Testing Center or Distance Learning Center will work for you (e.g., a college near you, several Sylvan Learning offices offer distance testing, etc.). During the first week of courses, everyone will be required to complete a Student Information Sheet that will specify where each student will be taking the exams. It is the student’s responsibility to call the Testing Center and schedule an appointment to take the exam. **Do not wait until the last minute to schedule!** If they do not have appointments available in the timeframe you need to take the exam, that is your responsibility. You know well in advance the dates by which every exam needs to be taken (remember the saying, “A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on their part”). When you go to the Testing Center, remember to bring a picture I.D. so they can identify that you are indeed you. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and true-false questions, and will be completed on a scantron sheet. Please bring a pencil with you. Exams will not be cumulative. Questions for exams will be based on lectures, assigned readings, and videos. **Check all the due dates on the schedule below and let me know the first week of class if you need to take an Exam before the allotted timeframe.**

**Final Exam**: The final exam in this course will simply be your third exam, which is given during finals week. It will **not** be cumulative (meaning it will not include information from the entire semester). See your schedule below or the course calendar for the date and specific chapters covered. Again, schedule early for this!

**Writing Assignment**: You will write a 4-6 page paper in which you will analyze the personality of a well-known person through **two** of the perspectives/domains of knowledge discussed in this course. See the full instructions in the Assignments folder under the Course Tools on the left side of the Home Page.

**Graded Assessment**: You have a graded assessment to complete after Lesson #6: textbook Chapters 9 and 10. Once you open it, you must complete it in one sitting, but there is no time limit for completing this assessment once you start working on it. There is a deadline for when you must have this assessment submitted. You will find this assessment in the Assessment folder under the Course Tools on the left side of the Home Page. It will be available a week before it is due.
Course Schedule

See the Syllabus on the Course Home page for the specific semester for which you are enrolled.

Hints for Success

Here are some tips you should follow which will help you to succeed in this course:

- Set aside a specific time each week to work on this course. The estimated amount of time you should spend is 4 hours/week, more in summer/winter condensed semesters.
- Attend one of the face-to-face Orientation meetings for your semester.
- Keep in touch with me by frequently checking your course e-mail, bulletin board, and calendar. Using the various communications tools provided in this course effectively is the same as "raising your hand" and participating in class discussions. Remember that you can always stop in to see me in-person during office hours or some other time that we schedule.
- Be aware of the time lag that is inherent in most on-line courses. Although the communications tools make it appear that the transfer of information such as assignments is "instantaneous", it does not mean that the reply will be instantaneous. One of the hardest things about an on-line course is becoming comfortable with its asynchronous nature. In general, expect Exams to be graded within one week. Your Paper will be graded in approximately 2 weeks.
- Familiarize yourself with published deadlines in the schedule above.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Remember that there are traditional ways for keeping in touch. Use the telephone, or make an appointment to meet with me on campus.
- If you can’t attend one of the Orientation meetings in-person, but you would like to get started on the right foot, email me and we can meet during my office hours or some other agreed-upon time.