Theories of Personality (PSYC 4333)

Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Michiyô Hirai, Ph.D.  
**E-mail:** Please use “Course Messages” on Blackboard  
**Office #:** ELABN 352  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Textbook:** MindTap® Psychology, Burger’s Personality, 9th Edition

**Textbook Purchase:**

You will purchase access to the electronic textbook through Blackboard. Please go to Blackboard and follow the instructions.

**Prerequisite Courses:**

Psychology 2301 (General Psychology) is a prerequisite for this course.

**Prerequisite Computer Skills:**

You should be comfortable and able to navigate online. If you do not have computer skills, please do not take this course. A basic level of computer skills is a prerequisite, and teaching these skills is not part of the course.

**Course Objectives:**

This course introduces you to the study of personality psychology. It is designed to familiarize you with a variety of personality theories that attempt to explain how we each develop our own unique set of traits, attitudes, and psychological functioning and what factors influence human behavior. This course will also provide you with the opportunity to apply theories of personality to case examples in work situations and everyday life. At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how each personality theory defines personality
2. Explain key features of each personality theory
3. Compare and contrast various personality theories
4. Discuss applications and usefulness of various personality theories
5. Evaluate personality theories from scientific viewpoints

This course also helps to address the three broad Student Learning Outcomes that are targeted for all psychology majors. By the end of the psychology program, it is expected that all psychology majors will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology,
2. Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation, and
3. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
Course Requirements:

Technical requirements:
This is an online course. Course materials, assignments, and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Thus, it is imperative that you can establish a stable internet connection (or have access to a stable internet connection) whenever necessary, install the Respondus Lockdown Browser, have a webcam, have access to Blackboard, and know how to use the required and useful functions (e.g., how to submit an assignment, how to review a submitted assignment). It is strongly recommended that you prepare other ways to access the course site (e.g., using campus computers, etc.) in case you have trouble connecting to the internet from home. For more information visit COLTT.

Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor (a webcam)
This course requires the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor (a webcam) for the online pre test, post test, and exams administered on Blackboard. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this short video to get a basic understanding of the Respondus LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. You can download the software from Blackboard and also from the following site:


For each test/exam, be sure to:

- Open the assigned exam using the Respondus LockDown Browser and have access to a webcam. Be sure your webcam is functioning and not covered.
- Be sure that you take a photo of yourself, a photo of your ID card (e.g., Student ID Card)
- Try to take a video of the 360 degrees of your surrounding environment (e.g., walls, desk, etc.). A video of limited degrees of your surrounding environment is not considered required information. It is very important that you prove you do NOT have your notes, cellphone, study guides, additional device to look at the MindTap site, or any study materials around you while taking the exam.
- Be sure the webcam is facing you at all times during the exam. (e.g., webcam should not be facing the ceiling).
- Try to keep your face toward your computer monitor/screen during the exam. Looking at other directions for a prolonged period of time can be considered cheating.
- Another person cannot be with you during the exam.
- Failure to comply with the above requirements will make your exam score a zero (0).

Also be sure you know the following:

- Establish a stable connection and maintain the connection for the period of time in which you complete an assigned test/quiz/exam. A loss of connection does not give you extension.
- Do not attempt to use other software or see files while using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Such attempts can cause the Respondus Lockdown Browser and your computer to stop running or freeze.
- In case your computer stops running or you are kicked out (you may receive a message, but ignore it), restart your computer, establish a stable connection, open the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor, and go back to Blackboard as soon as possible to continue the task. Once the clock starts, it will not stop.

IMPORTANT: Here is the message from the Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technologies: “Wi-fi is not recommended when taking exams with the Lockdown Browser. Wi-fi connections are extremely unreliable, which could cause the lockdown browser to lock a student out of their exam. In these cases, students would need to restart the lockdown browser to complete the exam.” It you decide to use wi-fi, make sure its signal is strong and stable and also use it at our own risk. Again once the clock starts, it will not stop.
Blackboard attendance and preparation:

This is NOT a self-paced course. You are required to complete all readings, quizzes, assignments, and exams by the due dates. Please know that this online course does NOT offer you schedule flexibility you might wish to have while taking an online course (e.g., I have a fun trip next week and will miss the assignment. How can I make it up? NO make-up is offered). You may complete the required components ahead of schedule.

Text readings and activities:
You will learn two chapters per week. In order to maximize your understanding and retention of course material, you are expected to complete assigned readings and activities fully on your own during the designated periods of time. You are required to visit the MindTap textbook via Blackboard to complete readings and activities. You are also required to review lecture slides, which often include additional information, examples, demonstrations, links to informative video clips, and research findings relevant to personality theories.

Pre test and Post test (1.0 pts x 2 tests = 2 pts)
You are required to take two multiple-choice tests at the beginning (pre) and the end (post) of the course. You will have 10 minutes to complete each test. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course quizzes and exams). You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take the pretest and posttest. Each test is worth 1 pt. You will be given 1 point for a completed test, regardless of your actual score. In addition, you will receive your actual score on the post test (up to 1 pt) as a bonus. See the course calendar for the due dates. There are NO make-ups for the pre and post tests.

Mastery Training Modules: (1.0 pts x 16 modules = 16.0 pts in total):
You are required to attempt two mastery training modules per week. The modules are located on the MindTap textbook via Blackboard. Each module consists of a learning portion and a testing portion. Select the “5” located at the bottom left corner of the module window. You learn several key terms in the learning portion and then take the testing portion in which you see questions about the key terms you just read. To receive a 100% (1 pt), multiple attempts (reviewing the key terms and receiving all correct answers several hours apart) are required. Please know after your first attempt on a module, you need to wait several hours to perform another attempt on it. Thus, please make sure you do your first attempt on a module many hours before its deadline. It is strongly recommended that your first attempt be made a day before its deadline. There are NO make-ups for any of the mastery training modules for any reasons or circumstances, because you have flexibilities in terms of where and when you attempt the modules. You may complete the mastery training modules ahead of schedule. See the Course Calendar below for the due dates.

Quizzes: (3.0 pts x 16 quizzes = 48.0 pts in total):
You are required to take two quizzes per week on MindTap accessed via Blackboard. You are expected to have studied the assigned chapter before taking its quiz. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice items. Each item is worth 0.3 points and thus you can earn up to 3 points per quiz. You will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course quizzes and exams). There will be 16 chapters and thus you will have 16 quizzes in total. You are allowed only one attempt per quiz. You will not be able to take a quiz after its deadline. There are NO make-ups for any of the quizzes for any reasons or circumstances because you have flexibilities in terms of where and when you take quizzes. You may complete the quizzes ahead of schedule. See the Course Calendar below for the due dates.

Presentation: (14 pts in total):
You will select a well-known real person (e.g., president, artist, athlete, historic figure, etc.), describes his/her observed personality characteristics, and applies two specific personality theories to explain his/her personality
and possible determinants. One theory must be Freudian theory. You select the other theory from the following list.

- Big Five (Trait Approach)
- Eysenck’s theory (Biological Approach)
- Temperament (Biological Approach)
- Rogers's theory (Humanistic Approach)
- Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs (Humanistic Approach)
- Classical and Operant Conditioning (Behavioral/Social Learning Approach)
- Bandura’s Social Cognitive Theory (Behavioral/Social Learning Approach)
- Cognitive Representations of the Self (Cognitive Approach)
- Kelly’s Personal Construct Theory (Cognitive Approach)

Your presentation also compares and contrasts the two theoretical explanations on the person’s personality and possible determinants. The total number of slides (including a title slide) should be up to eight (8).

The following timeline should be met:

1. Step 1 (Unit 1) (3 pts): Select a well-known real person (alive or deceased) for your presentation. Submit the name of the person and a summary of background information and observed personality characteristics of the person through Blackboard. See the course calendar for the due date. Your summary should include some details about the selected person’s background information and personality characteristics and can have up to 500 words. Late submissions or emailed files will NOT be accepted for any reasons or circumstances (Zero (0) points for a late or emailed submission). Your score will be posted within a week from the deadline.

2. Step 2 (Unit 2) (1 pt): Submit a theory from the list through Blackboard. See the course calendar for the due date. Late submissions or emailed files will NOT be accepted for any reasons or circumstances (Zero (0) points for a late or emailed submission). Your score will be posted within a week from the deadline.

3. Step 3 (Unit 3) (10 pts): Submit PowerPoint presentation reporting theoretical analyses on personality of the person you selected for Step 1 through the Blackboard assignment folder. See the course calendar for the due date. A sample set of slides is available in the designated learning unit. A late submission or emailed files will NOT be accepted for any reasons or circumstances (Zero (0) points for a late or emailed submission). Content of your presentation will be evaluated based on the following (10 pts). Your score will be posted within 2 weeks from the deadline.

- # of slides up to 8 including a title page (1 pt or 0 pts - no partial point offered)
- The person’s observed personality characteristics and some background information are described well enough for those who do not know the person to understand the person’s personality (1 pt or 0 pts - no partial point offered)
- The theories you present in your slides must be Freudian theory and the theory you submitted in Step 2. You are not allowed to use a new theory. (2 pts or 0 pts- no partial point offered)
- The theories explain the person’s personality and possible determinants. Using only a subset or selected components of a theory to complete this portion is insufficient. (2 pts or 0 pts- no partial point offered)
- The theories are thoroughly and correctly understood and applied. (2 pts or 0 pts- no partial point offered)
• You compare and contrast the two theoretical explanations on the person’s personality and determinants. Discuss similarities and differences. (2 pts or 0 pts- no partial point offered)

**IMPORTANT:** Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. Having connection/computer trouble at the last minute does not give you an excuse to request an extension or resubmission.

**Three exams and a cumulative final exam: (60 pts each):**
There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams and a cumulative final exam on the designated dates listed on the calendar below. You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take exams. Each exam will consist of 60 multiple choice items covering information drawn from the textbook and supplemental information available online, quizzes, and slides. You will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course exams). Exams are NOT open book and you will not have time to use your notes or book. You are not allowed to have another device (e.g., phone, tablet, computer) to access the textbook, blackboard, etc., while taking an exam. You are not allowed to use the study guides, notes, slides, etc., while taking an exam. You will have a 24-hour window to complete the exam within 60 minutes. You are allowed to take each exam only once. It is strongly recommended that you prepare your computer and check connection stability and resolve any technical difficulties before starting the exam. You should start an exam more than 60 minutes before its deadline to ensure that you will complete the preparation steps and the entire exam by the deadline. See the Course Calendar for the exam dates. Your lowest score among your scores on the three non-cumulative exams will be dropped. The final exam is mandatory.

No one else (e.g., family member, boyfriend, girlfriend, classmate) should be in the room where you take an exam, unless you notify me ahead of time about your special circumstance that requires someone else to be in the room (e.g., having children to take care of, taking the exam at a campus facility such as at the library or a computer lab due to lack of internet/webcam at home).

Please know that this is a 4000-level course and one of the most challenging psychology courses. Thus the exams for this course are not easy. The exam questions for this course do not simply ask you if you memorized definitions of the key terms and concepts the chapters describe. The exams include questions that test you if you can apply your knowledge about the key terms and concepts to rather complex theory-related issues and research findings. All exam items are fully related to the terms and concepts the study guides list. It is important that you also do well on the mastery training modules and quizzes that are relatively easy compared to the exams. If you accumulate good scores on these elements, eventually these scores will help you obtain a good grade.

**Make-up Exam Policy:**
Make up exams will only be offered in very rare circumstances (e.g., receiving a surgery, attending a funeral). Arrangements prior to the exam are required to set up a make-up exam.

**Extra Credit:**
This course will NOT offer extra credit.
Grading:

Two regular exams, the final exam, 16 mastery training modules, 16 quizzes, pre- and post tests, and presentation components will be used as summative measures of individual learning.

Two regular exams 120 pts
Final exam 60 pts
Presentation
  Step 1: Person and summary statement 3 pts
  Step 2: Selection of a theory 1 pt
  Step 3: Presentation content 10 pts
16 mastery training modules (1 pt each) 16 pts
16 quizzes (3 pts each) 48 pts
Pre test and post test 2 pts
Total 260 pts

There will be no grade curves in this course. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

A: 234.00-260.00 pts
B: 208.00-233.99 pts
C: 182.00-207.99 pts
D: 156.00-181.99 pts
F: 0.00-155.99 pts

Exact scores (no rounding) will be used to determine grades. No negotiation will be offered (e.g., My total score is 233.99. Is there anything I can do to receive an A? NO).

Course Structure on Blackboard:

Please go to Blackboard and find the following content and tools. You will frequently visit these areas to learn the material, complete quizzes and assignments, and take exams.

- Syllabus
- Learning Units: You will find information about chapters to read, links to learning modules, slides, quizzes, assignments, and study guides.
- Exams: You will take the exams from here.
- Course Messages: Please use this function to send and receive class related email.

Please visit Blackboard as frequently as possible in order not to miss required learning elements and information posted on it. The instructor may frequently post important information such as announcements about additional instructions for assignments, schedule changes, and other important changes.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at
accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**Scholastic Integrity:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course Drops:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available: TBA

**Contact:**

Please use Course Messages on Blackboard. I have set aside specific times in my weekly schedule when I will respond to course messages from this class. I will send out responses to your messages on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Please note: Your courses messages arrived from late Friday afternoon to the weekend will not be answered until the next Monday or Tuesday (if Monday is a holiday). No response will be given to course messages on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.
### COURSE CALENDAR

**NOTE:** This schedule is **TENTATIVE** and I reserve the right to make changes as the semester progresses. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings (Location)</th>
<th>Assignments (Location)</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
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<td>Syllabus (Blackboard)</td>
<td>• Respondus Lockdown Browser (Blackboard)</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
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<td>9/3 – 9/7</td>
<td>• Chapter 1 and 2 (MindTap)</td>
<td>• Chap. 1 and 2 Mastery Training (MindTap)</td>
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