



Introduction to Personality Psychology

Psychology 2300 Section 002 (MWF 10:30), and Section 001 (MWF 11:30)

Instructor: Dr. Paul Trapnell ("DrP")

Website: www.paultrapnell.com/2300

Text: *Personality Psychology*, by R. J. Larsen and D. M. Buss (4th Ed, 2010)

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Course Description: This course introduces the general aspects of personality study. These may include (a) theories of personality, (b) personality assessment from a psychometric perspective; and (c) past and present research on personality processes and individual differences. Students should gain a good understanding of how the methods and findings of correlational and experimental research contribute to the study of personality from a natural science approach.

Evaluation: Course grades will be determined by (i) 3 objective multiple-choice term tests (test #3 has some fill in the blanks questions too), (ii) discussion group questions, and (iii) discussion group attendance. [*OPTIONAL TERM PAPER: A term paper of 2500 words may be substituted for either test 1 or test 2—but only if you email me or speak to me about this option and submit a half-page outline of the topic before the first exam. The paper would be 10 typed pages, 12 pt. font, with a minimum of 10 journal article references, due before the last lecture week of the semester*].

Term Tests: There will be 3 term tests. The first two are NON-CUMULATIVE, and worth 25% each toward the final grade. The first will be given during the first week of February, and will cover chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the text, plus all lecture material, and any additional readings (if assigned) up to that date. Exam 1 is 50 questions, all multiple choice.

EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5
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<u>Friday, February 10th</u>
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The second term test will be given during the first week of March and will cover chapters 6 and 7 plus all lecture material and any additional readings (if assigned) since the last test. Exam 2 is 50 questions, all multiple choice.

EXAM 2: Chapters 6 and 7

<u>Monday, March 12th</u>

The third test will be given in the final exam period, and is worth 38% of the final grade. Exam 3 has a total of 60 questions. The first 50 questions are all multiple choice, and cover only the material since the last exam. After those 50 question, there are 10 fill-in-the-blank questions based on the whole course. These 10 fill-in-the-blanks questions target very basic course knowledge ("Letterman Top 10) sampled from each of the three sections of the course.

EXAM3: Chapter 8, 11, and 19

<u>MWF 10:30 class (Section 2): April 18th, 9:00am, 1L12 (homeroom)</u>
<u>MWF 11:30 class (Section 1): April 12th, 1:30pm, 4C40 (homeroom)</u>

The instructor reserves the right to slightly post-pone (delay by 1 week) the date of the first 2 exams, if necessary. If so, you will be notified at least 2 weeks in advance in the class lecture, and on the 2300 web page: paultrapnell.com/2300.

Discussion Groups

Approximately 6 times during the term, we will break into groups to discuss material covered in lectures and the text. To stimulate discussion, you will be responsible for coming up with 6 discussion questions sampled widely from available readings and lectures. Include a paragraph for each question in which you discuss a possible answer. You will hand in a written copy of your questions & answers to me at the beginning of that class, approximately **every two weeks**. The **discussion questions are worth 2 points each (for a total of 12 possible points)**. If you put a reasonable amount of effort into your discussion questions, and hand them in on time, you will receive the full 2 points. 1 point will be given if you hand them in on time, but the amount of effort is deemed to be unsatisfactory. If you do not hand anything in, you will receive 0 points. [Please note that late submissions of questions will not be accepted, as they are designed to stimulate discussion.]

In addition, you will receive 2 attendance points for each whole discussion period you attend (for a total of 12 pts.). Note you will not receive any attendance points if you leave class early on a discussion day (unless you get permission to leave early). Thus discussion group participation and attendance can earn you a grand total of 24 points, or 12% of your grade.

Group Discussion Days (FRIDAYS): Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 17, Mar. 2, Mar. 16, Mar. 30th

Numerical Cut-Offs For Letter Grades

A+ 190-200	A 175-189	A- 162-174	B+ 150-161	B 140-149
C+ 125-139	C 110-124	D 95-109	F 0-94	

Example of Grading

Student	Tests (out of 176)	Discussion (out of 24)	Total (out of 200)	Letter Grade
1	110	22	132	C+
2	140	24	164	A-

Please Note carefully:

1. The above cut-offs are tentative and may be changed in either direction.
2. The final date for voluntary withdrawals without penalty from a half course is: **Friday, February 29th**
3. Students are directed to read the general calendar sections on academic misconduct and appeals.

The Usual Disruption-of-Class Disclaimer: Cell phone ringers must be turned off. Unauthorized talking-in-class isn't tolerated. Talking and other seemingly minor disruptions (e.g., students arriving late or leaving early; flipping through a magazine, clipping their toenails, etc.) have a negative impact on the class environment (ranging from being somewhat annoying to the rest of us to being downright rude and offensive). Attendance in university is in general voluntary. If you attend class, you must be respectful of others' need for quiet during the lectures. To keep such unauthorized disruptions to a minimum, I reserve the right to assess a class disruption penalty of 5% of the course grade for repeated disruption of class lectures after a warning has been issued. I have never yet had need to do so, thankfully, but must reserve this right in order to safeguard students' educational rights within the classroom.