



## PSY 317: PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY

SECTION 01E, 20064, TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm

EDS 131

January 10 – May 10

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Virginia Davis, M.A., M.Ed.

Office Location: Binnion Hall, Psychology Department Office

Office Hours: TR 2:00 pm, Henderson Hall

Office Phone: 903-886-5200

University Email Address: virginia.davis@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours

### COURSE INFORMATION

***Textbook(s) Required:*** Feist, J, Feist, G.J., and Roberts, T. (2021). *Theories of Personality*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. NY: McGraw-Hill.

Additional materials, such as research articles, case studies, and hand-outs, may be emailed, posted on D2L, or distributed in class.

**D2L:** Course materials, including an electronic version of the syllabus and supplementary information, will be posted on D2L.

**FACE-TO-FACE FORMAT: THIS COURSE WILL BE MANAGED IN A FACE-TO-FACE FORMAT, WITH CLASS MEETINGS ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, WITH IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AS WELL AS ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS. CHAPTER READINGS, CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, POWER POINTS, QUIZZES, AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ON D2L IN A WEEK-BY-WEEK FORMAT. THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE CLASS AND ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED AND MONITORED.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**“Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.”**

## **Course Description**

**From the TAMUC catalog:** This course is designed to introduce students to the various approaches to the study of personality. A consideration of personality's determinant, development, and assessment form the framework of the course.

The course's primary objective is to facilitate your conceptual skills and development regarding the main schools of thought in personality theory.

**Additional Course Description:** What is personality? Where does it come from? Are we born with a personality? Do some people have good personalities and others have bad ones? Can people change their personalities? The answer to these questions is...it depends. There are several theories of personality, and each provides a unique perspective with regard to what personality is, how it develops, and whether it remains stable or changes.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to describe and differentiate among the major psychological approaches which explain personality.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to define and apply key personality concepts, terms, and theories.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and read original essays from the psychologists who have made major contributions to an understanding of personality.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to explain research methodology and the ability to evaluate the merit of personality studies.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to recognize and identify research that these theories have generated and upon which they have been built.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to practically apply acquired insight of personality to one's own life.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the clinical applications of the major groups of personality theories.
8. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply one personality theory to an analysis of a person's behavior, thinking patterns, or emotional reactions.
9. Students will demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, stereotypes, and scholarly literature in personality research.

**People First Language:** In special education, general education, and psychology, it is important to refer to individuals who have a disability (or a DSM-5 diagnosis) in “people first” language as described in the federal special education law, I.D.E.A 2004. This is done to focus on the individual first, not the disability or the diagnosis. Always refer to

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the person first and the disability/diagnosis second. Therefore, you would not say, “a schizophrenic,” but a person with schizophrenia.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed:**

You should be comfortable with the following:

- Using a word processor (changing font, spell check, formatting, etc.)
- Using email for communication; Sending an email attachment
- Navigating the internet; Using an internet search engine
- Using the learning management system (D2L)
- Using Microsoft Word and Power Point

**ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE TYPED AND SUBMITTED AS A WORD DOCUMENT OR PDF (NOT NOTEPAD, ETC.) UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TURN IN QUALITY WORK, I.E. MEETS COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT AND FREE OF SPELLING ERRORS.**

### **Instructional Methods**

Class time will consist primarily of lectures, writing assignments, group work, and homework with student discussion and participation encouraged. Film and small group discussion will be used when appropriate.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

**Time Commitment:** This is a three credit hour course. Studies indicate that, on average, for every one hour of course credit, students should expect to spend three hours on course work per week, in addition to the 3 hours a week for class time, for a 16-week course. That calculates to 9 hours a week for reading, homework, discussion, studying etc. You may spend more, depending on your level of expertise. I suggest you take the above information seriously. **I do not offer end-of-semester extra credit assignments. This is not an online course. Attendance will be expected and monitored.**

**Personal Commitment:** You are responsible to keep up with the schedule, assignments, reading and exams. Situations like “Computer problems”, “no internet access”, “I lost my book”, or “my printer is out of ink” are all frustrating experiences but none will be accepted as an excuse to make up work. It is your responsibility to make sure you get your assignments turned in on time. If it looks stormy out, or your personal computer is acting sluggish, it is advisable to find an alternate working situation.

**Basics:** It is advised that should an unforeseeable problem (that could interfere with class performance) occur, notify me as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements may be discussed. The material accompanying the text and handouts should be

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treated as mandatory reading and will be included in class discussion and quizzes. Students are, therefore, responsible for all assigned text reading as well as articles, etc., assigned on weekly learning modules. Students are to be aware of all assignment, homework, and quiz dates that are listed in the course schedule without reminder from the instructor. It is expected that students approach each learning prepared (completed assigned readings) to discuss pertinent topics. Those who approach class assignments unprepared should expect their grades to be negatively affected as a result. **All assignments are to be submitted on the date due unless otherwise instructed.** Any assignment submitted beyond the due date may be subject to a grade of zero.

**Personal Views:** There are over 500 Christian denominations in the U.S., each with a differing view of God, Jesus, the Bible, etc. There are also two strong political parties in the U.S. with liberal and conservative factions. Since each of us is entitled to personal political and religious views which almost certainly differ, attempts by any student to focus lecture, discussion, or testing toward his or her particular preexisting beliefs are considered inappropriate, detrimental to the purpose of this course and to the individual freedom of other students and will, therefore, be discouraged.

**Students are expected to display tolerance for others' views during class discussions and emails. Comments and language should always be respectful and appropriate for a college community.**

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)  
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>.

## GRADING

EVALUATION TECHNIQUE: Point Breakdown			
1. Quizzes	12 @ 10 points		120 points
2. Psychobiography Progress	50 points		50 points
3. Psychobiography Paper	100 points		100 points
4. Discussion Boards	2 @ 50 points		100 points
5. Class Assignments	Various		50 points
6. Final Exam	1 @ 100 points		<u>100 points</u>
	Total Possible		520 points
<b>Grades will be assigned on the basis of the number of points accumulated during the semester:</b>			
	Point Total	Percentage	Letter Grade
	468-520 points	90%-100%	A
	416-467 points	80%-89%	B
	364-415 points	70%-79%	C
	312-363 points	60%-69%	D
	0-311 points	59% or below	F

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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## Assessments

### QUIZZES:

There will be a 10-question quiz following each chapter of text reading that we cover. We will cover 12 chapters; therefore, twelve quizzes will be posted. Students are expected to complete each of the 12 posted quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple choice in format, covering the material in the chapter and any videos that are assigned with that chapter. **QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE UNLESS PERMISSION IS OBTAINED IN ADVANCE. THE DISCRETION FOR A MAKE-UP QUIZ LIES SOLELY WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. IF A STUDENT IS NOT ATTENDING CLASS, NO POINTS WILL BE EARNED BY COMPLETING THE QUIZ. THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE CLASS.**

### Psychobiography:

Each student will apply the theories of personality that have been covered in the course to an understanding of one person. The person must be a real person, not a fictional or mythological figure, renowned in the culture, and cannot be someone covered in the textbook. (Students may not use family members or friends). Students will compose a paper on a published biographical or autobiographical source which will incorporate information on personality theories from the text. Your paper should follow the format of the illustrative biographies given in the text and be detailed in the discussion of how theoretical concepts apply. Students will thoroughly discuss, emphasizing/explaining the theoretical concepts in the paper. Focus on how the theoretical concepts apply to the one person you are trying to understand. Cite specific details from the biography to support your interpretations.

Psychobiography Project will consist of the following:

1. Progress Report (1): List the biographical source (book/website) you will be using for the paper and be sure to cite it using APA format. In a one to two page outline (which must include some level of detail), summarize your thoughts about how the material covered from the text applies to this person. The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you are thinking critically about the theories and applications prior to the end of the course. As a result, no credit will be given for progress reports that are more than a day late.

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2. Paper: The paper should be 4 to 6 pages in length (Longer papers are acceptable. Shorter papers will not be penalized for length, but be sure that you are discussing theories adequately, which is difficult to do in a paper less than 4 pages.) The paper must follow APA format and be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. The cover page and reference page do not count as part of your page limit. Papers must be completed using appropriate grammar and spelling and must adequately demonstrate knowledge of the person and theoretical concepts applied.

Cite references that you use for direct quotations and for factual material. Ordinarily, only two references will be necessary: the biography (or autobiography) and the text. If you wish to do more detailed reading about personality theory or about the biography, you may include more references, but that is not necessary or expected. The purpose of this paper and presentation is to demonstrate that you understand the theories well enough to apply them appropriately and with insight.

### **Class Activities:**

Class assignments will be assigned at various times during the semester. These assignments are planned to enhance the current topic/chapter of discussion

### **Class Discussion:**

Each class discussion (2) will consist of a question or questions to hopefully provoke student participation in class discussion. Once assigned, students will have a minimum of one week to consider their response and post their response on the discussion board site. To complete the assignment, each student will also be expected to respond to two postings from classmates.

### **FINAL EXAM:**

The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of comparisons of various theories of personality as well as questions regarding conditioning and reinforcement.

## **RESEARCH PARTICIPATION**

A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to attain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMUC, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class should plan to participate in the psychology department's participant pool.

To earn the points available, students must complete a total of 4 experiment credits (4 hours). When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA), you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. (Be careful. Not all experiment credits are worth one hour; some are only ½ credit. Your total must reach 4 participant credit hours; not just four experiments.) Students who complete the 4 participant credit hours will receive 20 **extra credit** points at the end of the term.

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# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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## Interaction with Instructor Statement

As presented earlier, I will maintain office hours on MW at 10:50 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway between Henderson Hall and Binnion Hall. If you need to speak with me, this would be a good time to schedule. If you wish to email me, please use your TAMUC email address. This will assure that I address your email more quickly. When creating your message, please be sure to use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. Correspondence to me should not be treated in the same way as a text message to a friend. Please include the following information in the subject line:

**Your last name/psy317/description of issue**

*Example: Hammond/psy317/chap 8 practice quiz*

Be brief, be clear, and be specific. Statements such as “I don’t understand the assignment” are too vague to receive a quick response. If there are specific instructions that you don’t understand, copy the instructions into your email and give me some idea of where you need help. I try to be as clear as possible, but sometimes there is a “slip” between what’s typed and what’s interpreted.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ATTENDANCE – TIME COMMITMENT – STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**Attendance:** Regular class attendance is a must in order to be successful in this course. Students are expected to attend class and to consistently log in to the course site. “It is the prerogative of the faculty to drop students from courses in which they have obtained excessive absences/inattention as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, faculty recommend through the department head to the appropriate college dean that a student be dropped from a class. The faculty member will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending a drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Records Office (Systems Policy 13.2. **STUDENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS COMPLETED IF THEY ARE NOT ATTENDING CLASS. THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE CLASS.**

*Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop attending the class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.*

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any

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changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance during class time and also posted to the class site on D2L.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

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Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A & M – Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The course calendar will be posted on D2L course site.

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