

# PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY (PSY 396)

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**Office Hours:** This semester I am in class from 9-11 am on M-W-F, and 2:00-3:15 M-W, besides this course. So, typically, I will be in my office 11:00-1:45 pm on M-W-F and 9:00--10:45 am and 12:30-3:00 pm on T-Th. Also, please feel free to set a specific appointment to meet.

## Course Objectives and Format

The primary objectives in this course include gaining a greater understanding of the primary methods and theories psychologists use to understand and study personality. Accordingly, we will be tackling both contemporary perspectives and research findings, as well as historically important theories.

Some of the major theoretical perspectives may be familiar to you from previous psychology courses, but the emphasis here is on how each theory applies to personality specifically. The format of this course is a seminar involving much discussion and student participation. Class time will be used to process and apply the newly learned material from the readings, as well as to introduce some new material not covered in the assigned readings.

## Readings

All readings to prepare for class are online at [www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/PSY396](http://www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/PSY396).

## Assessment and Grading

**Exams (180 possible points total):** There will be a series of 4 exams (45 possible points each) in which you will be asked to integrate and apply the material covered in the course.

**Final Exam (20 possible points):** As a final check as to learning of the major points throughout the semester, the final exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions. Students who have been involved throughout the semester, and who have learned the material as we progressed, should do fine. Otherwise, there is too much material to study to try to prepare for this exam "from scratch."

**Final Grade:** The total number of possible points in the course equals 200, and your grade in the course is based on a straight scale: 90-100% = **A**, 88-89% = **B+**, 80-87% = **B**, 78-79% = **C+**, 70-77% = **C**, 60-69% = **D**, less than 60% = **F**.

## In Case of an Emergency School Closing

If we have an unexpected evacuation or closing of the college, continue to follow the assigned reading schedule. If an exam falls on a cancelled day, the exam will be held the next time the class meets (so be prepared to take the exam). If the college closes for a substantial length of time, monitor Koala Connection and your college e-mail account for information and directions. You can contact the

instructor via e-mail at [Michael@mindingthemind.com](mailto:Michael@mindingthemind.com) and/or [mwiederman@columbiasc.edu](mailto:mwiederman@columbiasc.edu).

### **Special Individual Arrangements**

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please see me.

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>
Aug. 25	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 30	What is Personality? What Are the Purposes of Personality Theories?
Sept. 1	How do We Assess Personality Informally? How Accurate Are We?
Sept. 6	Gordon Allport and Trait Perspectives on Personality
Sept. 8	The Five-Factor Approach to Personality Traits
Sept. 13	Measuring Traits with Various Forms of Data
Sept. 15	Evaluating Personality Scales and Correlations
Sept. 20	<b>Exam 1</b>
Sept. 22	Personality Stability and Change, Consistency and Coherence
Sept. 27	<i>49-Up</i> : A Filmed Peek at People over a Span of 42 Years
Sept. 29	The Self-Concept as an Aspect of Personality
Oct. 4	Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Nature and Personality
Oct. 6	Behavioral-Genetic Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 11	Biological Responsiveness Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 18	<b>Exam 2</b>
Oct. 20	Cognitive Perspectives on Personality
Oct. 25	Emotional Styles, Coping, and Health
Oct. 27	Social Perspectives on Personality
Nov. 1	Gender and Personality
Nov. 3	Motives and Goals as Related to Personality
Nov. 8	<b>Exam 3</b>
Nov. 10	Psychoanalytic Perspectives: Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung
Nov. 15	Neo-Freudian Perspectives: Alfred Adler and Erik Erikson
Nov. 17	Neo-Freudian Perspectives: Karen Horney and Erich Fromm
Nov. 22	Object Relations & Attachment Perspectives
Nov. 29	Humanistic Perspectives: Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow
Dec. 1	<b>Exam 4</b>
Dec. 8	<b>Final Exam</b> – Thursday, 11:00 am