

**Psychology of Personality (PSY 2400)**  
Fall 2007 Syllabus

**Course Information**

Meeting days and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Meeting location: 309 Smith Wright

Course website may be accessed through WebCT

**Instructor Information**

Rose Mary Webb, Ph.D.

Office hours: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.,  
and by appointment

Office/lab location & telephone: 112-D Smith Wright; 262-2489

Email: [webbrm@appstate.edu](mailto:webbrm@appstate.edu)

Website: [www.appstate.edu/~webbrm](http://www.appstate.edu/~webbrm)

**Required Text and Readings**

Funder, D. C. (2004). *The personality puzzle* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Norton.

Access to other supplemental readings and materials will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester, as needed.

**Course Overview and Objectives**

PSY 2400 is designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction of the issues relevant to the psychology of personality. To this end, the learning objectives of this course are:

1. to examine the basic principles that underlie personality psychology
2. to understand the methods utilized in personality psychology and the measurement of dimensions of personality
3. to investigate the development of personality, including both genetic and environmental contributions and influences
4. to compare the primary approaches to and theories of personality psychology

**Evaluation**

Course grades will be determined on the basis of performance on the criteria listed below; values of each are also listed. There will be a total of 1000 points possible.

Exam 1	100 points	Online Quizzes	90 points
Exam 2	100 points	Assignments	110 points
Exam 3	100 points	Paper	100 points
Exam 4	100 points	Final Exam	200 points
Exam 5	100 points	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the total number of points accumulated during the semester according to the following guidelines:

	B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699		
A	930-1000	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	630-669	F 0-599
A-	900-929	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629	

## **Course Requirements**

### Class Attendance

You are responsible for all material presented in class, some of which will not be available through the textbook alone. If you miss a class for any reason, please make arrangements with a classmate to determine what you have missed. Consistent class attendance is essential to your success in this course. Absences alone will not directly lower your grade (i.e., by subtracting points); however, absences will limit your understanding of the material, and the natural consequences of frequent absences will be reflected in your performance on exams and assignments. Moreover, because of the make-up policy detailed below, you may miss an opportunity to earn points by failing to attend a class.

### Readings and Online Quizzes

Reading assignments for a given day should be completed before class meetings because the text will often be used to provide background for lecture topics. Material from the text may not be discussed explicitly in class; therefore, I encourage you to mention in class or in office hours any issues or questions you may encounter in the readings. Supplemental readings may be provided by the instructor throughout the semester. You are responsible for all readings, whether discussed in class or not.

To encourage daily preparedness, online quizzes will be available through WebCT for each chapter in the text. Each quiz is worth 5 points toward your final grade and may be taken open-book and open-notes. These quizzes must be completed before the class meeting for which they are assigned. Each chapter quiz will be taken offline at the beginning of class, and you will not be able to access the quiz after that time (and will earn a zero for that quiz).

### Assignments

There will be at least 12 written assignments throughout the semester. Each is worth 10 points. These assignments will be of various formats (e.g., writing exercises, class activities). Tentative due dates for each of these are noted on the attached schedule. All assignments are due at the **beginning of the class session** on the due date. Assignments marked with an asterisk (\*) will be completed in class.

The highest 11 of 12 scores will count toward your final course grade; I will drop the lowest of your 12 scores. The total of the remaining 11 will contribute up to 110 points toward your final grade. Because one 10-point grade is dropped, no make-ups will be allowed.

### Paper

Each student will be required to write a paper in which the various approaches to personality psychology will be applied (details forthcoming). Early stages of paper development will be assessed at two occasions throughout the semester; these will count as 2 of the 10-point assignments described above. The final version of this paper is worth 100 points.

### Exams

Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay items. Questions will be taken from all aspects of the course, including readings, supplemental materials, lectures, discussions, and class activities. You will be required to recall information about concepts covered throughout the course and asked to apply your knowledge of course content through questions that ask you to compare, contrast, critique, and integrate material. The final exam will be cumulative.

## Course Policies

### Make-up policy

All make-up exams will be given during the final exam period following the final exam. Requests must be made to the instructor in advance and in writing (stating for which exam a make-up is requested). Failure to request a make-up exam in writing will result in a score of zero for that exam. The format of a make-up exam is at the discretion of the instructor.

No make-ups for the 10-point assignments and 5-point quizzes will be allowed. Because one 10-point grade is dropped, you may miss one assignment completely without a detrimental effect on your grade.

Because of its more comprehensive nature, the final paper may be turned in late, but late papers will be assessed a 10% penalty (10 points) for each day (or partial day) it is late. Each 24-hour period begins at the beginning of class. Note that this is the *only* assignment for which late papers will be accepted (i.e., the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stages of the paper will not be accepted late).

No opportunities for extra credit points will be available.

### Communication

Outside of office hours, the best way to reach me is by email. To insure that your message gets flagged properly as important student correspondence, please enter the course number and a short description of the nature of the request in the message header (e.g., Psy2400-Request for appointment; Psy2400-Assignment question). I will usually respond within 24 hours (except weekends).

On occasion, I may need to correspond with everyone in the class or with an individual student outside of class meetings; I will use your AppalNet email address for this purpose. If class must be cancelled (e.g., due to inclement weather), I will notify the entire class by email.

### Classroom policies

Students are expected to arrive to class on time every day and should not leave early.

Please leave all electronic devices (e.g., cell phone, iPod, pager) turned off in the classroom.

All members of the class will treat one another respectfully. Disagreement with the ideas of others is expected, but all discussions will remain professional, not personal.

Academic integrity is essential and is not to be taken lightly. Please familiarize yourself with ASU's Academic Integrity Code and abide by its directives (available in PDF at [http://www.academicaffairs.appstate.edu/academic\\_integrity\\_code.pdf](http://www.academicaffairs.appstate.edu/academic_integrity_code.pdf)).

Students who require accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services immediately (see <http://www.fpext.appstate.edu/gstudies/dss/index.htm>). Students must notify the instructor of any necessary accommodations within the first two weeks of class.

### Examination policies

During examinations, the following additional procedures will be followed:

- Books, notes, and all personal belongings must be stored under your seat.
- No hats are allowed.
- Please arrive on time. Late arrivals will not be given extra time.
- No one will be permitted to begin the exam after the first person in class completes it.
- Do not leave the room until you are finished with your exam. You will not be permitted to continue to work on an exam after exiting the room.

**Psychology of Personality (PSY 2400)**  
Fall 2007 Tentative Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Readings	Topic Description	Assignments
1	Tu	8/21		Course overview, history & themes	
	Th	8/23	Ch. 1	Methods used in personality psychology	
2	Tu	8/28	Ch. 2	Sources of data	Syllabus *
	Th	8/30	Ch. 3	Research design	Sources
3	Tu	9/4		Measurement issues	
	Th	9/6		<i>No class: Convocation</i>	
4	Tu	9/11		<b>Exam 1</b>	
	Th	9/13	Ch. 4	Person-situation debate	Behavior
5	Tu	9/18	Ch. 5	Trait approach: Assessment of personality	NEO-PI
	Th	9/20	Ch. 6	Judgments of personality	
6	Tu	9/25	Ch. 7	Using personality to understand behavior	
	Th	9/27		Personality disorders	Reflection
7	Tu	10/2		<b>Exam 2</b>	
	Th	10/4	Ch. 8	Biological approach: Anatomy and physiology	Paper Stage 1
8	Tu	10/9		Biological approach, cont'd	Pharmacology
	Th	10/11		<i>No class: Fall Break</i>	
9	Tu	10/16	Ch. 9	Behavior genetics; nature/nurture; evolution	
	Th	10/18		Implications of biological influences	Heritability *
10	Tu	10/23		<b>Exam 3</b>	
	Th	10/25	Ch. 15	Learning approach: Behaviorism	
<i>Note: Thursday, 10/25, is the last day of the drop period</i>					
11	Tu	10/30		Learning approach: Social learning	Learning *
	Th	11/1	Ch. 16	Cognitive approach: Systems	
12	Tu	11/6	Ch. 17	Cognitive approach: Processes	Paper Stage 2
	Th	11/8		<b>Exam 4</b>	
13	Tu	11/13	Ch. 10	Psychoanalytic approach: Freudian theory	
	Th	11/15	Ch. 11	Psychoanalytic approach: Unconscious mind	Defense mech *
14	Tu	11/20	Ch. 12	Post-Freudian psychoanalytic approaches	
	Th	11/22		<i>No class: Thanksgiving Break</i>	
15	Tu	11/27	Ch. 13-14	Humanistic approaches	Indiv-collect
	Th	11/29		<b>Exam 5</b>	
16	Tu	12/4	Ch. 18	Comparison, integration of approaches	Final Paper
	F	12/7	3:00-5:30 p.m.	<b>Cumulative Final Exam (&amp; Make-up Exams)</b>	