Proseminar II: Personality Psychology (PSY 5200)
Spring 2007 Syllabus

Course Information
Meeting day and time: Tuesday, 5:15 – 7:45 p.m.
Meeting location: Smith Wright 305
Course website may be accessed through WebCT

Instructor Information
Rose Mary Webb, Ph.D.
Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;
Friday by appointment
Office location: Smith Wright 112-D
Phone: 828.262.2489
Email: webrrm@appstate.edu
Website: http://www.appstate.edu/~webrrm

Materials
Readings will come from theoretical and empirical journal articles. Access to most readings will be provided by the instructor (through WebCT), but occasionally, you will be required to secure additional reading materials on your own.

Course Overview and Objectives
PSY 5200 is designed to provide students with a comprehensive survey of the issues relevant to the psychology of personality. To this end, the learning objectives of this seminar 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

Evaluation
Grades will be determined on the basis of performance on weekly written and oral contributions to discussions, discussion leadership, and a final exam.

Weekly written contributions 10%
Weekly discussion participation 10%
Discussion leadership 20%
Final exam 60%

Grades will be assigned according to the following guidelines:
A/ A- 90-100%
B+/ B/B- 80-89%
C+/C/C- 70-79%
D+/D/D- 60-69%
F 0-59%
Weekly written contributions and discussion participation
There will be reading assignments every week, and these readings will provide the basis for our class discussions. You will be expected to have read the assigned articles before class, and you will be expected to come to class prepared to contribute to the discussions in meaningful and constructive ways. To encourage this preparedness, you should organize a list of at least three points from each topic (to be turned in). These points may be in the form of comments, interesting observations, questions, points of clarification, criticisms, alternative interpretations, or comparisons to additional external literature, as appropriate.

You should plan to contribute to all seminar discussions, either from your prepared list or following the thread of the discussion. The goal of this course is to stimulate dynamic and intellectual conversations about personality psychology; therefore, contributions that elicit additional comments from your classmates are more appropriate than terminal comments.

Both written contributions and discussion participation will be graded using a check (√) system. Meeting the stated requirements of the assignment will result in a √. Particularly insightful contributions may merit a √++; whereas inappropriate or perfunctory comments may earn a √–.

Discussion Leadership
Each discussion topic will be assigned discussion leaders (usually two leaders per topic) who will plan, organize, and guide the discussion of that topic (based on one or two articles). More details will be outlined regarding this requirement on the first day of class.

Exam
The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 (6:00-8:30 p.m.). This exam will include a combination of short answer and essay items. Questions will draw upon all aspects of the course, including readings, lectures, discussions, and class activities.

Make-up policy
Because the format of this proseminar is discussion-based, it is impossible to make up for an absence. However, I understand that an occasional absence is unavoidable; therefore, one absence is allowed without a detrimental effect on your in-class participation grade. However, you will be required to turn in your written list of three points before class (directly to me by email), in addition to a three-page written summary of the day’s readings (due by the following class meeting). Moreover, you are responsible for all material discussed in class, so please make arrangements with a classmate for determining what you have missed.

Make-up exams may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Requests must be made to the instructor personally and in advance, and you may be asked to provide written documentation in support of that request. Please note that, under no circumstances, is approval for a make-up exam guaranteed. If the request is approved, the exam must be taken at a time convenient to the instructor. The format of a make-up exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to obtain approval for a make-up exam results in a score of zero for that exam.

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., Psy5200-Request for appointment). 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.
Tentative Schedule of Readings

March 06, 2007

March 20, 2007


March 27, 2007


April 03, 2007


April 17, 2007


April 24, 2007
Ackerman & Heggestad (1997). Intelligence, personality, and interests: Evidence for overlapping traits. Psychological Bulletin, 121, 219-245.