

**Psychology of Personality**  
**PSYC 328W 01**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 12:15-1:30**  
**Fisher Hall 552**

**Instructor:** Lori E. Koelsch, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 3:15-4:00, and by appointment

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the field of personality. Throughout this course we will struggle with some of the most basic and difficult questions in psychology (e.g., what does it mean to be human?). We will focus on well-known theories such as Freud's psychoanalysis, and less traditional but equally important theories such as those provided by feminists. You will be asked to reflect on these concepts as well as your own ideas about personality. It is expected that you will think about, write about, and discuss how these theories help you to understand human behavior, including your own. During this course you will be exposed to many different and often competing theories and ideas about humans and personality. Students expecting to find THE TRUTH about personality may be disappointed.

The format of this course will be varied and will include lecture, videos, and discussion. Your participation is highly valued. Since this is a writing intensive course, there will also be a focus on the quality of your writing. It is anticipated that your writing skills will improve throughout the semester. Students struggling with particular writing difficulties or looking to further develop existing skills are encouraged to contact the Writing Center for assistance. Evidence of persistence and improvement will be considered in your final grade.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the major components of the theories of personality covered in this course.
2. Critically think about and evaluate different theories of personality.
3. Have a greater understanding of your own personality.
4. Apply theories of personality to other human beings.
5. Produce clear and thoughtful college-level writing assignments.

**Required Reading:**

Fragar, R., & Fadiman, J. (2005). *Personality and personal growth: 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. New York: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Any additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

## Evaluation:

### *Participation & Attendance (50 pts):*

Participation includes involvement in class exercises, questions/comments during class, and active attention while others are speaking. I expect you to read the assigned chapter before class so that you are able to participate in discussions and activities. I am aware that some people are more comfortable with group discussions than others; the quality of your participation will be much more important than the quantity. **Attendance is expected at all classes, and attendance will be randomly taken throughout the semester.** If you cannot attend a class you must let me know ahead of time.

Students are expected to be respectful of themselves and others in the class. Since personal disclosure is likely to be a component of this class, it is very important to be respectful of others' experiences. However, class discussion is not a time to have an in-depth discussion about your personal psychological problems. If you feel that you need to discuss these, please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment with the Counseling Center (x6204) or Psychology Clinic (x6562). Lastly, you are encouraged to express your opinions in a respectful manner, but any slurs or obscenities directed toward any person or group of persons will not be tolerated.

### *Discussion questions (50 pts):*

You will be responsible for bringing two discussion questions based on the reading for one chapter. These should be questions that are not easily answerable and will provoke discussion in the class. You should submit these questions to me via Blackboard or in writing **no later than 10am on the first day that they are discussed.** I will provide an example of acceptable questions for the first chapter. Chapters will be assigned to you the second week of class.

### *Papers (400):*

This is a writing intensive course. Throughout the semester you will complete four papers, approximately three-four pages in length each. For the first two papers, you will have the option of revising and resubmitting your paper in accordance with my suggestions. The final paper is in lieu of a final exam and will be due during the scheduled final exam period. A brief description of each paper is provided below, and more thorough instructions will be on Blackboard.

- *Paper 1 (100 pts)* - We will watch the movie *American Beauty* in class. You will use Freud's theory to write a paper about the main character, Lester Burham.
  - If you complete the optional rewrite you will have the chance to improve your score by 10 pts
- *Paper 2 (100 pts)* - Feminists have argued that traditional Freudian theories of personality have not represented women's experience. In this paper you will be asked to expand on this idea.
  - If you complete the optional rewrite you will have the chance to improve your score by 10 pts
- *Paper 3 (100 pts)* - For your third paper, you will compare one of the three final chapters to a Western model of personality. Ten points of your grade is a summary of your chosen chapter.
- *Paper 4 (100 pts)* - You will be asked to reflect on your ideas about personality.

### *Grade Breakdown:*

Participation and attendance - 50pts

Discussion questions - 50pts

Papers - 400pts

**Total = 500**

### *Point Value/Grading Scheme*

465-500 = A            415-434 = B            350-379 = C

450-464 = A-            400-414 = B-            300 - 349 = D

435-449 = B+            380-399 = C+            <300 = F

### **Academic Integrity**

I assume that all students strive to maintain academic integrity. Please see <http://www.duq.edu/judicial-affairs/code-of-conduct/academic-integrity.cfm> in order to remind yourself about Duquesne's policies. It is very easy to *unintentionally* violate a policy, and even an unintentional breach of integrity is subject to sanctions. I strongly encourage you to speak with me if you have any questions. If I suspect that a policy is violated I will follow the procedures outlined by the University throughout the course of investigation and sanctioning process (if it is determined that a violation has occurred).

### **Disability Services**

I strive to make my classroom a positive learning experience for all students. If you have (or believe you may have) a disability that requires accommodations please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (x6657). You may also contact me individually, however you must have documentation in order to receive accommodations.

### **Additional Policies**

- Use of cell phones (including texting) and laptops is distracting (to me and the rest of the class), and is therefore prohibited. Cell phones must be silenced, but if you need to keep your ringer on due to extenuating circumstances, see me ahead of class.
- I do my best to keep up with email, but please understand that I have many other responsibilities and cannot always reply immediately. I will respond to all emails within one business day. I always respond to student emails, even if to just say that I've received your message. If you do not hear back from me, assume that I have not received your message.
- I do not accept any assignments via email. You must submit all work either through Blackboard or as a hard copy (in class or my mailbox). If you do submit work online, make sure that it is saved as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or .rtf
- Late assignments will be penalized unless accompanied by proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Late papers will lose 5% of the final grade per business day that they are late.

## Course Schedule:

Date	Day	Topic	Reading
8/24	T	Introduction and Syllabus review	
8/26	Th	Freud	Chapter 1
8/31	T	Freud	Chapter 1
9/2	Th	Freud	Chapter 1
9/7	T	Freud	Chapter 1
9/9	Th	Writing a paper	
9/14	T	Jung - <b>Paper 1 due</b>	Chapter 2
9/16	Th	Jung	Chapter 2
9/21	T	Jung	Chapter 2
9/23	Th	Jung	Chapter 2
9/28	T	Horney - <b>Paper 1 optional rewrite due</b>	Chapter 4
9/30	Th	Horney	Chapter 4
10/5	T	Feminism	Chapter 5
10/7	Th	Feminism	Chapter 5
10/12	T	Feminism	Chapter 5
10/14	Th	Skinner	Chapter 8
10/19	T	Skinner - <b>Paper 2 due</b>	Chapter 8
10/21	Th	Skinner	Chapter 8
10/26	T	Cognitive	Chapter 9
10/28	Th	Cognitive	Chapter 9
11/2	T	<i>No Class 11/2 - Monday schedule</i>	
11/4	Th	Cognitive - <b>Paper 2 optional rewrite due</b>	Chapter 9
11/9	T	Kelly	Chapter 10
11/11	Th	Kelly	Chapter 10
11/16	T	Kelly - <b>Chapter summary due</b>	Chapter 10
11/18	Th	Maslow	Chapter 12
11/23	T	<i>No class - TDay</i>	
11/25	Th	<i>No class - TDay</i>	
11/30	T	Maslow	Chapter 12
12/2	Th	Maslow - <b>Paper 3 due</b>	Chapter 12
12/7	T	TBA	
12/15	W	<b>Final Paper due</b>	

\*Note: Dates and topics are subject to change\*