San José State University
Psychology 139: Psychology of Personality
Fall 2011

Instructor Information

Instructor    Clifton M. Oyamot
Office        DMH 314
Phone         (408) 924-5650
Email         Mail function through course Desire2Learn (D2L) site or clifton.oyamot@sjsu.edu

Course Hours  Section 3, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:15, DMH 359
Office Hours  Tuesdays, 12:00 – 1:15, Wednesdays 2:30 – 4:00, or by appointment
Prerequisite  Psychology 001

Contacting Instructor

1. **Through Desire2Learn mail function.** Best for questions and comments that you wish to remain private.

2. **Through Desire2Learn discussion board.** Best for questions about the course that need not remain private. Chances are others have the same questions you have.

3. **Through regular email.** If you’ve tried contacting me via Desire2Learn but have not received a reply in a reasonable amount of time (2 – 3 days), or if you need to contact me quickly, please use my regular email account: clifton.oyamot@sjsu.edu.

4. **By phone.** Best if you need to contact me quickly and cannot use email at the time.
Course Description

Who are you? How did you become this way? What will you become?

Most everyone asks these questions about themselves, and others, at one time or another. Personality psychologists, through scientific inquiry, provide some answers to these fundamental, yet elusive, questions.

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to current approaches to the study of personality and personality processes. The scientific study of personality is concerned with understanding and explaining the whole, functioning individual, within their social context. No doubt, this is an ambitious project!

No one scientific approach or perspective can fully meet this goal. Instead, what has emerged in this discipline are a number of different perspectives, each with its own set of strengths and weaknesses. Together, they give us insight into the nature of human nature.

In this survey course you will learn about the major perspectives personality psychologists have developed to answer the above questions. The course begins with a broad introduction to the domain of personality psychology, and considers the scientific tools used to study personality. We then explore the various perspectives developed by personality psychologists (e.g., trait approach, biological approach, psychodynamic approach, etc.). The course ends with an overview of conceptual frameworks and investigative strategies for understanding personality.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

I have three broad goals in this class. Students will (a) become familiar with the major perspectives used to understand and study personality, (b) begin to “think like a psychologist,” and (c) understand that psychological research has implications for “real life” and our daily lives. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand prominent theoretical approaches to studying personality.
2. Understand the prominent research methods used to study personality.
3. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of empirical articles in personality psychology.
4. Assess the strengths and limitations of theoretical approaches in studying personality.
5. Apply personality theories and research to “real-world” settings and issues.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook


Another resource that may be useful to you is the textbook website. This website contains chapter overviews, quizzes, and other resources to help you learn the course material:

http://psychology.wadsworth.com

Under Select a Course click on personality, Click on icon of our textbook

Other Readings

See additional readings list at the end of this syllabus
Other equipment/material requirements

- 3 Scantron forms 882-ES
- Regular access to a computer and internet connection
- Handouts will be made available in a timely manner via Desire2Learn. **It is your responsibility to print out and bring copies of handouts to the appropriate lecture.**

### Course Desire2Learn site

The course Desire2Learn site is an online resource supplement for this course. Use of this site and the information provided is **not** a substitute for attending lectures. The site will be updated regularly throughout the semester. This site contains:

- Discussion Board (Course Announcements, student questions)
- Links to webpages that will be of use to you throughout the course
- Handouts and articles
- Lecture slides (generally posted after lecture is presented)
- Grade roster

My intention is that the site will become an additional forum, outside of class, in which we can debate, discuss, and raise questions about the course material. **Check this site regularly for course announcements, articles, assignments, and other course materials.**

### Accessing Course Desire2Learn site

To access the site go to [http://sjsu.desire2learn.com](http://sjsu.desire2learn.com)

**Username** = *firstname.lastname*, but may have an appended number (e.g., *joshua.doe2*)

**Password** = Your initial D2L password is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

See the online tutorial for additional login and usage information:

**Desire2Learn Student Tutorial:** [http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/D2L_students/](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/D2L_students/)
Course Structure

Lectures & Discussions

This will be a lecture course meeting twice a week. There will be occasional film and video presentations, in-class demonstrations, discussion groups, and in-class presentations by students to supplement the lectures. Students will be expected to have done the assigned readings for the week prior to attending lecture. Furthermore, students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions and activities.

Readings

Readings will be assigned from the Burger textbook and several outside articles. Assigned readings appear in the course schedule and the reading list, and will be posted to the course Desire2Learn site.

The textbook readings are meant to supplement the materials presented in lecture. The textbook provides a broad overview of personality psychology.

Lectures will be coordinated with the text readings, but will often go into greater depth than the readings on a particular topic. Therefore, simply reading the text and never coming to lecture is NOT enough to do well in this course.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Exams (150 points)

There will be three examinations for this course. These examinations will include a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions based on the material presented in lectures and in the assigned readings. Each exam will include 35 - 60 questions each worth 1 point. Essay questions may also be included whose point value will vary between 5 – 10 points. Each exam will be worth 50 points for a total of 150 points across the 3 exams. The exams are generally non-cumulative and will only include material as indicated on the course schedule. The exception is the final exam which may include cumulative essay questions.

Person Analysis Paper (50 points)

The major writing assignment for this class will be a 6 - 8 page typed, double-spaced, APA style paper describing and analyzing a person’s behavior. The emphasis will be on application of systematic observational methods and understanding these methods’ strengths and limitations. Further instructions regarding this paper will be made available during the term.

Assignments & Participation (20 points)

Throughout the term you will be given assignments to be completed inside or outside of class. Some of these will be completed individually, and some will be done in groups.

Research Experience assignment (approximately 10 points). You will participate in 2 hours worth of SJSU psychology research studies that are relevant to social or personality psychology. After participation, you will write a brief summary of the study (from the participant’s perspective) and its relation to social or personality psychology. An alternative assignment will be prepared for those who prefer not to take part in 2 hours worth of psychology studies. Specific instructions for the research experience assignment and the alternative assignment will be posted on D2L.

Other Assignments (approximately 10 points). These assignments will include (but are not limited to) reaction/assessment of personality measures, quizzes, video discussions, article
summaries, and participation in class discussion. Instructions for assignments will be posted on D2L (out-of-class assignments) or handed out during class (in-class assignments).

Please note that not all assignments are listed on the course schedule. Additional take home assignments will be announced in class and on Desire2Learn in a timely fashion throughout the semester. In-class assignments may not be announced prior to class. Thus, regular attendance is crucial.

Make-up Exams

No extensions or make-up exams will be given except in cases of documented emergencies, serious illness, or a dean’s excuse. If such a circumstance should arise, please contact me as early as possible and be ready to provide documentation.

Late Assignments

Late class assignments will not be accepted except in cases of documented emergencies, serious illness, or a dean’s excuse. If such a circumstance should arise, please contact me as early as possible and be ready to provide documentation.

Major paper assignments (Person Analysis Paper) will lose a full letter grade (10%) for each day late. Papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments are given at the instructor’s discretion. Should extra credit opportunities be extended, the total amount of extra credit points earned by a student cannot exceed 1 – 2 % of the total number of points available in the course.

Tentative Grade Determination

Final grades in this course will be assigned as indicated below:

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<th>Percent</th>
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<td>100 – 93</td>
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<td>76 – 73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>92 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>72 – 70</td>
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<td>89 – 87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69 – 67</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>86 – 83</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>66 – 63</td>
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<td>82 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>62 – 60</td>
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<td>79 - 77</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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University Policies

Academic Integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.
Classroom Protocol

Regular attendance is necessary to do well in the course. Although the course has an online resource, this resource is not a substitute for attending lectures.

Laptops
In-class laptop use should be restricted to course-related activities (e.g., taking notes). Other activities (e.g., web surfing) distract both the instructor and students and will not be tolerated. You will be asked to turn off your laptop if you are engaged in non-class activities. You will be asked to refrain from laptop use for the duration of the course if this behavior continues.

Cellphones and other electronic devices
Please be certain to turn off or put in silent mode all cell phones, pagers, and any other devices that produce distraction prior to entering the classroom.

Late arrivals
If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.

Be respectful of others
Respect differing points of view offered by students. Independent discussions should not be happening when someone is addressing the class.

I expect you to come to class prepared
“Prepared” means you have completed the readings and any assignment before class starts, and written down any questions you had from the assignment. You should be as prepared as you expect your professor to be.

Communication
Use email!! Use office hours! Talk to me!!

Check the course Desire2Learn site regularly
If I become ill, I will inform you the night before that I will be absent. Please email me before class if you will not be in class. Please set your spam controls to accept my email address.
Student Resources

Librarian: Psychology
The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research:

Psychology Librarian: Bernd Becker
408.808.2348
Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology

Student Technology Resources
Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center
The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center
The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center
The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/.
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
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<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS &amp; ASSIGNMENTS DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>08/25</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>08/30</td>
<td>The Domain of Personality Psychology</td>
<td>Log onto course D2L site Burger 1, McAdams</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>09/01</td>
<td>Conceptual &amp; Methodological Approaches</td>
<td>Burger 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>09/06</td>
<td>Conceptual &amp; Methodological Approaches</td>
<td>Research Methods Assignment Burger 7</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>Trait Approach: Five Factor Model</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>09/13</td>
<td>Trait Approach: Self-Monitoring</td>
<td>Snyder (TBA)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>09/20</td>
<td>Trait Approach: Conceptual &amp; Methodological Strengths &amp; Limitations</td>
<td>Burger 8</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>09/22</td>
<td>Exam 1: 1, 2, 7, 8, outside readings</td>
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<td>09/29</td>
<td>Discuss Exam &amp; Term Paper (Important!)</td>
<td>Funder (2004, ch. 2)</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>10/04</td>
<td>Trait Approach: Motivations</td>
<td>Burger 8 Motivations Assignment</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>10/06</td>
<td>Trait Approach: Motivations</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>Psychoanalytic Approach: Freudian Theory</td>
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<td>To be announced</td>
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<td>10/18</td>
<td>Psychoanalytic Approach: Freudian Theory</td>
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<td>Neo-Freudians</td>
<td>5, 6 Neo-Freudians Assignment</td>
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<td>10/25</td>
<td>Exam 2: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Instructor at a conference)</td>
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<td>11/01</td>
<td>Biological Approach</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td>Biological Approach</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>11/08</td>
<td>Biological Approach</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Social Learning Approach</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>Social Learning Approach</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td>Cognitive Approach</td>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Cognitive Approach</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>12/01</td>
<td>Cognitive Approach</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>12/06</td>
<td>Discuss Person Analysis Paper</td>
<td>Person Analysis Paper Due</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>12/08</td>
<td>Course Retrospective &amp; Review</td>
<td>Research Experience Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Exam 3: 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, outside readings, cumulative essay question Friday, Dec. 16, 2:45 – 5:00.</td>
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* This is a tentative timeline. We may find ourselves spending more time on particular topics due to student interest, or the need to clarify further information presented.
**Additional Readings**

Copies of these articles will be made available on the Desire2Learn site. Please contact me ASAP if you have trouble getting these articles.

The reading list may be modified or added to during the term. Updates will be announced in class and on the D2L site.

