



**PSYC 2330 PERSONALITY**  
**3 credits, Spring 2009**  
**North Hennepin Community College**

**Dr. Yasmine Kalkstein**

[yasmine.kalkstein@nhcc.edu](mailto:yasmine.kalkstein@nhcc.edu) (email is the best way to contact me)

Office Phone: 763-488-0432

Office: CLA 187

Office hours: Monday: 10 am-1 pm, Tuesday: 10:45-11:45, Wednesday: 10-11 am

It is helpful to let me know in advance that you are coming so I can be prepared. You are also encouraged to contact me via email if you have any questions.

**Lectures:** MWF, 10:00-10:50 am, Center for Liberal Arts 139

**Peer's contact information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prerequisite:** General Psychology (Psyc 1150). You must have taken 1150 prior to starting this course.

**Course website:** There is a D2L website where grades, quizzes, and course materials will be posted.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCESSING THIS WEBSITE.**

Go to: [https://www.nhcc.edu/What\\_can\\_I\\_study/Online\\_learning/index.cfm](https://www.nhcc.edu/What_can_I_study/Online_learning/index.cfm)

Help Desk: The statewide online learning help desk and support services

(<http://d2l.custhelp.com>) will provide phone (1-877-235-2751) and email technical support for students and faculty using Online Learning. A searchable knowledge base will provide on-demand 24x7 support as well.

**You must have a valid email listed in D2L because course announcements may be made via email.**

**Check:** <http://www.metnet.edu/email/howtoinitiate.html>

**Course Description:** We all have tendencies and preferences that allow us to predict our own behavior in various situations. These tendencies and preferences determine how we are likely to behave in certain circumstances. And it is these tendencies and preferences that people learn about us when they 'get to know' us. The study of personality is the study of these tendencies and preferences, how they differ between individuals, and how they develop. This course will examine the scientific research that exists today on personality, including trait theory, the role of our genes and environment on shaping our personality, and the study of motivations.

**Course Goals:** Understand the methods involved in personality psychology research.

Examine the ways in which humans differ with regards to personality.

Learn about what variables influence personality and how personality might influence behavior.

Examine the development of personality.

Apply knowledge of theories to examining case studies.

Self-reflect on your own personality and what shaped your personality.

**Textbook:** Dan P. McAdams. *The Person: A New Introduction to Personality Psychology*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

**Lectures:** Lectures will be mostly based on material from the book, but also from outside sources.

**Grades:** Grades will be based on the total number of points that you accumulate in the course. It is possible to accumulate 250 points in the course.

7 MQs: 70 points total (10 pts for each MQ) -- (28% of grade)

8 Prep Guides: 60 points total, (7 pt per prep guide, except prep guide 4 and 7 will be worth 9 pts total) -- (24% of grade)

Portfolio Check 1: 15 points – (6% of grade)

Portfolio Check 2: 25 points – (10% of grade)

Portfolio Final Check: 60 points – (24% of grade)

Classwork - 20 points total – (8% of grade)

*See the specifics below for how to earn points!*

*225-250 = A, 200-225 = B, 175-200 = C, 150-175 = D, Below 150 = E*

### **Prep Guide:**

**What is it?** Use the Prep Guide to determine which material you should focus on in the book. You are expected to write out the answers to the questions. There is material you will be responsible for that will be found in your prep guide that won't be discussed in lecture. The day the prep guide is due, you will get together with a peer and go through it together. Focus on the questions you are uncertain about FIRST, so that you have tackled the tougher stuff first. I will not give you an answer key, so it is important that you work to figure out the answers yourself ahead of time so that you have time to discuss it with your peers.

**The Point:** Prep guides will help you learn material from the book, some of which we won't have time to discuss in lecture. Research shows that working with peers to learn material helps you understand and retain the information.

**How it will be graded:** You will need to bring TWO copies of your prep guide to class—one to turn in and one to work with. Prep guides must be TYPED. If you show good faith and effort you will get full credit. Good faith and effort means complete sentences that are not simply copied from your book. You gave it your best shot in answering each question. The prep guide should take you a few hours to do. You can get a maximum of 5 points per prep guide. You will get partial credit if you gave it some effort. You will then have to turn in a synopsis of your discussion with a peer for 2 points. There are thus a total of 7 possible points per Prep Guide, *except PG 7 and PG 9 will be worth 9 points.* Note: IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB ON THE PREP GUIDE, IT SHOULD PREPARE YOU VERY WELL FOR THE MQ. MOST MQ QUESTIONS ARE BASED DIRECTLY ON THE PREP GUIDE. There is a significant correlation between how well people do on the prep guide and how they do on the MQs!

## MQs:

**What is it?** I wouldn't want to scare you and say there are seven tests...so we'll call them "mega quizzes" or "multiple questions" or something. Hence, MQs!

**The Point:** Frequent tests help you learn the material.

**How it will be graded:** The MQ dates are listed on the calendar. There are no make-up MQs unless there is a very legitimate reason, in which case you will be doing a difficult make-up essay exam. Each MQ will be worth 10 points. It will be 10 questions and you will have 20 minutes to do it at the beginning of class. So, don't be late to MQ lectures or you will not have the full time to work on the MQ.

## Classwork

**What is it?** In class, we will do various exercises, including case studies.

**The point:** Gives you credit for the work you do in class.

**How it will be graded:** Depends on the assignment, but usually if you are in class and do a nice job in groups answering questions, you'll get credit.

## Personality Portfolio

**What is it?** An ongoing project you will be working on to showcase your learning.

**The Point:** Allow you to consider, reflect on, and be engaged with the material more deeply. The portfolio will also give you a chance to consider your own personality more deeply.

**How it will be graded:**

Throughout the course, in a three-ring binder, you will be working on a personality portfolio to showcase your learning in the course. This will be checked at three different points in the course. Everything in your personality portfolio except your journal-like reflections of the course must be TYPED.

The final portfolio will consist of 4 parts:

1. The results of the personality tests with your reflections on the tests and results.
2. Personality analysis from a developmental point of view of someone else's life based on an extensive interview.
3. Reflections/thoughts about what you are learning in the course.
4. Your own personality assessment.

### **Portfolio Check 1 will be due on March 9. This will be worth 15 points.**

1. At this point you should have completed the following tests;  
Test 1: <http://www.web-research-design.net/cgi-bin/crq/crq.pl>  
Test 2: <http://similarminds.com/cattell-16-factor.html>  
Test 3: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/surveys/sensation/>  
Test 4: <http://www.personalitytest.net/ipmap/ipmap1.htm>

The results should be printed and included in your binder.

You should also include reflections for each personality test. A reflection may include whether you think the test results were an accurate depiction of you, what you thought of the test questions, or thoughts on the trait being measured. I expect at least a paragraph reflection on each test.

2. You should also include reflections on course material. This may include what you are learning, what has surprised you about the material, or what you may disagree with. This part should be in complete sentences, but doesn't have to be a polished work. It is more like writing in a journal. You should be doing this **THROUGHOUT THE COURSE**.

**Portfolio Check 2 will be due on April 13. This will be worth 25 points.**

*Portfolio check 2 will include everything above, plus:*

1. Test 5:  
<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>  
and your reflection of this test.
2. Continuing reflections on course material.
3. A polished and well-written paper based on your interview of an older person. More detailed instructions:

Locate an elderly person—perhaps contact a retirement home for someone you may visit or interview a neighbor or grandparent. Ask them to share with you their life story and what they can of their personality.

Write a four page paper. Begin the paper by describing who you interviewed, how you met them or know them. Based on your interview, assess their personality in terms of Erikson's developmental theory. Be sure to explain Erikson's theory as you describe it. How did they resolve the various stages? Where do you believe they fit now? You should also comment on other aspects of their personality, but be sure to spend at least half the paper on Erikson's theory.

This paper will be graded on content as well as **GOOD WRITING**. **EDIT, PROOFREAD, HAVE SOMEONE ELSE LOOK IT OVER!!**

**The FINAL Portfolio is due on May 13 at 10 am . This will be worth 60 points.**

This portfolio should include edited versions of anything you have already turned it (turn in the old and new versions so I can see the changes you may have made) and...

It should be organized (i.e. put the tests in one area, your "journal-like" reflections of the course in another, and then the two papers in another section).

You will need to include one final personality test:

test 6: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~lapoffen/tasha/rotter.htm>

Half of your final portfolio grade will be based on the final paper.

-Describe and reflect on your own personality. When doing so, include the following points in 4-6 pages (double-spaced, typed). You may organize the paper how you would like.

- \*Relate your personality to at least 3 theories we have talked about. Describe the theory (as if I don't know what the theory is about!)
- \*What environmental factors do you think shaped your personality?
- \*How has your personality changed over time? Relate your personality to one of the developmental frameworks.
- \*Some researchers believe you might manifest different behaviors in different situations. Give at least one example of this in your own life.

I expect a well-written paper with no grammatical or spelling errors. It should be well organized. 25% of your paper will be graded on this alone. If you have concerns about your writing or would like additional help, please use the Writing Center on campus.

[https://www.nhcc.edu/Student\\_resources/Writing\\_resource\\_center/index.cfm](https://www.nhcc.edu/Student_resources/Writing_resource_center/index.cfm)

40 points of the 60 for the final portfolio are based on your final paper (see below). The remaining 20 points are based on all your other work.

- 10 points: Writing (well-organized, written clearly, no spelling/grammar problems)
- 10 points: Relating personality to at least 3 theories
- 10 points: Environmental influences on personality
- 6 points: Has your personality changed? Relate to developmental framework.
- 4 points: How your personality is situational.

In your personality project, you must CITE your sources. If you do not cite your sources, you will lose a letter grade. If you directly obtain sections of your paper from someone else's work without using quotes, this is considered plagiarism, and depending on the extent to which you do this, you may fail your assignment and be reported to the administration.

Overall, when I see your final portfolio, I want it to be evidence that you've learned and thought about yourself and the course material!

### **ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

To do well in this class, you should participate in all class sessions and show up for class on time.

**No cell phones, mp3 players, or laptops may be used in this classroom at any time unless specifically arranged ahead of time with the instructor.**

If you need an accommodation due to a disability to enable you to fully participate in this course, contact the College's Disability Access Services Office at 763-493-0555 (V) or 763-493-0558 (TTD).

During exams, you may be asked to show a picture ID. Cell phones must be turned off and placed out of sight during exams. You will not be allowed to listen to any personal audio devices (e.g., mp3 players).

**Policy on Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams: There will be NO MAKE-UP TESTS**, unless an absence is approved in advance or is due extreme circumstances (as deemed legitimate by the instructor). Any make-up tests may be essay exams. You are expected to get class notes from a peer if you miss class. If you are missing an exam due to an absence that is deemed legitimate by the instructor, you may still need to provide documentation (doctor's note, funeral program etc.).

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the student code of conduct

([http://www.nhcc.edu/About\\_North\\_Hennepin/College\\_policies/Code\\_of\\_conduct/cocsbad1c.cfm](http://www.nhcc.edu/About_North_Hennepin/College_policies/Code_of_conduct/cocsbad1c.cfm))

**CHEATING:** I have no tolerance for cheating. If you choose to stay enrolled in this class, you are agreeing both to not cheating and to reporting any cheating you may witness. Cheating includes giving someone else answers to an exam, copying answers from someone else, **copying someone's prep guide, giving someone prep guide answers,** and plagiarizing.

If I have any suspicions that you are cheating during an exam, I have the right to impose any change in the testing situation that I see fit to address the situation.

In your personality project, you must CITE your sources. If you do not cite your sources, you will lose a letter grade. If you directly obtain sections of your paper from someone else's work without using quotes, this is considered plagiarism, and depending on the extent to which you do this, you may fail your assignment and be reported to the administration.

ANY STUDENT I SUSPECT OF A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT MAY FAIL THE COURSE AND THE VIOLATION WILL BE REPORTED.

**CLASSROOM DISRUPTION:** Students who are not engaged in the class activities may be asked to leave the classroom.

**If you decide to stop attending class,** it is your responsibility to withdraw yourself from class. I have the option to enter a "FN" on your transcript if I determine you are no longer attending class, participating in class activities, and/or completing class assignments. If you will be absent from class for an extended period, you must contact me. If an "FN" is recorded on your transcript, you must contact me for permission to resume attendance.

To do well in this class, you should expect to participate in all class sessions and show up for class on time.

**The calendar below is subject to change. Changes will be announced during lecture.**

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Week 1	Jan 12 <i>Unit: Evolution</i>	13	14 Syllabus quiz due by 5 pm	15	16	17	18
Week 2	19 Holiday	20	21	22	23 <b>Prep Guide 1 due</b>	24	25
Week 3	26 Do attachment test	27	28 *MQ1*	29	30 <i>Unit: Behav/Social</i>	31	Feb 1
Week 4	2	3 No Classes PD	4 <b>PG2 due</b>	5	6 *MQ2*	7	8
Week 5	9 <i>Unit: Measurement</i>	10	11 <b>PG3 due</b>	12	13 No class	14	15
Week 6	16 Holiday	17	18	19	20 *MQ3* <i>Unit: Trait theory</i> Do cattell test	21	22
Week 7	23	24	25	26	27 No Class Metro PD	28	Mar 1
Week 8	2 <b>PG4 due</b>	3	4 *MQ4* Do sensation seeking test	5	6 Do NEOPI test <i>Unit: Conti/ Heritability</i>	7	8
Week 9	9 PORTFOLIO CHECK 1 DUE	10	11	12	13 <b>PG5 due</b>	14	15
Week 10	16 Spring Break--	17 -----	18 -----	19 -----	20 -----→	21	22
Week 11	23 Do MMPI test	24	25 *MQ5* <i>Unit: Development</i>	26	27	28	29
Week 12	30 <b>PG 6 due</b>	31	April 1	2	3 *MQ6* <i>Unit: Motivation</i>	4	5
Week 13	6	7	8	9	10 Work day: no class	11	12
Week 14	13 PORTFOLIO CHECK 2 DUE	14	15 Work day: no class	16	17	18	19
Week 15	20 <b>PG7 DUE</b>	21	22	23	24 *MQ7*	25	26
Week 16	27	28	29 <i>Unit: Cognitive Theories</i>	30	May 1	2	3
Week 17	4	5	6 Do Rotter test <b>PG8 DUE</b>	7	8 No classes	9	10
Week 18	11 No classes	12	13 FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE AT 10 AM.	14	15		