

# Personality Theory

Psyc 324-001

Spring 2011

Monday and Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15

Science & Technology I 212

---

Instructor: Ronald Vega, M.A.

Office: Robinson B 213

E-mail: rvega@gmu.edu

Phone: 703-993-3606 ext 40123

Office Hours: Monday 1 – 3 or by appt.

---

## Course Overview

In essence, personality is the study of who we are as individuals. It influences many aspects of our lives from our views of the world around and the way we interact with others to our satisfaction of the world around us. Since personality is so central to the daily functioning of individuals, it is not surprising that almost every major theoretical approach has something to say about personality. For this reason, there is no universally accepted theory of personality. The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of research and theory related to personality.

---

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- a) Broadly understand the concept of personality from various theoretical perspectives
  - b) Understand the important role that personality plays in our daily lives
  - c) Recognize the ways in which personality shapes popular media
- 

## Course Evaluation and Assignments

Your final course grade will be decided on three components

- 1) Examinations (3 at 25% each | 75% of your total grade)
  - a. Three non-cumulative exams and one cumulative final exam
  - b. Each exam will be worth 25% and the worst grade will be dropped
  - c. Please keep the following in mind:
    - i. Because one of your exam scores will be dropped, there are no make-up exams.

- ii. You are expected to be familiar with all corresponding material in the textbook, even if we do not cover this material in lecture.
  - iii. No student may begin the exam once another student has completed it. Students who enter the exam late will be required to complete the exam by the scheduled end-time.
- 2) Multi-media assignments (3 for a total of 25% of your total grade)
- a. This project is intended to help students connect class material to popular culture.
  - b. Students should find an example of personality theory in multi-media and write about how it relates to class
  - c. One MM assignment must be about a personality assessment**
  - d. Can be turned in on **any** Monday
  - e. More details provided in the multi-media assignment handout

---

Administrative Stuff

Required Text: Funder, D.C. (2010). *The personality puzzle* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Norton & Company. New York, NY.

Adding/Dropping: Last day to add: January 31<sup>st</sup>. Last day to drop: February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Honor Code Statement: All aspects of this course are bound by the George Mason University Honor Code which states that, “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, inadvertently or not, will be reported directly to the Honor Committee. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. Examples of cheating behavior are working with another person **on an exam**, looking at other class member’s exam, having another person write your paper, or plagiarizing. Behaviors that are **not** considered cheating are studying with other students, having another person proofread your paper (like the writing center), or comparing notes outside of class. If there is any confusion about whether or not a behavior is considered cheating, please ask before you do it.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. Please do so by the end of this week. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Courses 9.1: I will be posting the readings, projects, etc. on Courses 9.1. If you have not previously used this system, you might wish to access this link for help, <https://courses.gmu.edu/webct/entryPageIns.doweбct>

---

Course Schedule

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC/EVENT</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
Jan 31	Last day to add class	
Week 1 - 4	Overview of Personality and the Trait Approach	Chapters 1, 4, & 7
	Research Methods	Chapter 3 pages 72-79;82-88
	Inheritance/Development of Personality	Chapter 9; Roberts et al., 2006 & Costa & McRae, 2007
Feb 15	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Feb 20	<b>Last day to turn in MM assignment 1</b>	
Feb 24	Last day to drop class	
Week 5 - 9	Personality Assessment/Personality Tests	Chapters 2 & 5
	Personality Judgment	Chapter 6
	Humanistic Approach and Positive Psychology	Chapter 13
March 7th	<b>Personality Assessment Reflection Due</b>	
March 12 - 18	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 28th	<b>Exam 2</b>	

April 2nd	<b>Last day to turn in MM assignment 2</b>	
Week 10-13	Psychoanalytic Approaches and the Unconscious	Chapters 10-12
	Personality and the Self	Chapter 17
May 1	<b>Last day to turn in MM assignment 3</b>	
April 23rd	<b>Exam 3</b>	
Week 14	Personality and Life Outcomes	No Assigned Reading
May 2	Last day of class	
May 14	<b>Final Exam @ 1:30 p.m. in S&amp;T 1 room 212</b>	