

Personality Theory
Psyc 324-002
1:30-2:45 T/R
Science and Tech I Room 206

Instructor: Andrew Burns

Email: aburns@gmu.edu **Phone:** 540-257-4282 (I prefer you use email)

Office hours: Tuesday 12-1pm in 2034 David King Hall or by appointment

Text: Funder, D. (2004). *The Personality Puzzle*, 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

*Additional reading assignments may be given throughout the semester.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this class is to cover the basic approaches to personality psychology in order to provide some insight into the complexities of the psychological functioning of every individual. The class may involve exercises, readings, discussions, projects, and written assignments that will supplement the lectures. Students will be expected to complete the assigned work and to attend class regularly.

Grading:

There will be 3 exams, 2 during the semester and a final exam.

- Readings or other assignments may be given and completion is expected by the next class day unless otherwise stated.
- Quizzes will be given throughout the semester and there will be no option to make-up quizzes that are missed.
- Failure to show up for an exam will result in a zero. Make-up exams will be more difficult than the originals and will only be an option if the student can provide proof of a legitimate reason for being absent.
- Exams can include multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions

The points will be tallied as follows:

- 2 Exams during the semester: 50 points/each is worth 25
- 1 Final Exam: 35 points
- Quizzes: 15 points
- Extra credit work, if deemed appropriate, will be due at the end of the semester and will be worth 5 points

Grades will be issued as follows: 98-100=A+; 93-97=A; 90-92=A-; 88-89=B+; 83-87=B; 80-82=B-; 78-79=C+; 73-77=C; 70-72=C-; 60-69=D; 59 and lower=F.

Notes and Communication:

- **Information on the class for that day will be sent to you via email the night before.**
- **You will be expected to keep your GMU email account working and to check it on a regular basis for class updates and announcements.**

Honor System: The Honor Code of George Mason University will be strictly enforced in this course. It is a student's responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code and to abide by it at all times.

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. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Note: *Last day to add – Sept. 12th*
 Last day to drop – Sept. 29th

Class Schedule: subject to change

8/29: Introduction/Class overview
8/31: Understanding the Person and Sources of Data: Ch. 1-2
9/5: Research Methods: Ch. 3
9/7: Traits and Behavior: Ch. 4
9/12: Personality Testing: Ch. 5
9/14: Judging Personality: Ch. 6
9/19: Understanding Behavior: Ch. 7
9/21: Review Material
9/26: Exam 1: covers Ch. 1-7
9/28: Discussion of Exam 1
10/3: Biology: Ch. 8
10/5: Inheritance: Ch. 9
10/10: No Class/Monday's classes meet on Tuesday
10/12: Psychoanalysis: Ch. 10

10/17: The Unconscious Mind: Ch. 11
10/19: After Freud: Ch. 12
10/24: Review Material
10/26: Exam 2: covers Ch. 1-12
10/31: To be announced...
11/2: Discussion of Exam 2
11/7: The Meaning of Life: Ch. 13
11/9: Cultural Variation: Ch. 14
11/14: Behaviorism and Social Learning Theory: Ch. 15
11/16: The Cognitive System: Ch. 16
11/21: No Class/Thanksgiving Holiday
11/23: No Class/Thanksgiving Holiday
11/28: Cognitive Processes: Ch. 17
11/30: Conclusions: Ch. 18
12/5: Review Material
12/7: Review Material
12/14: Final Exam: covers Ch. 1-18 and all related notes and materials (1:30-4:15)