

## Theories of Personality (PSYC 41282-002)

**Fall 2005**  
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**Course Web Page:** <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~dfresco/>  
**Assigned Text:** Engler, B. (2003). *Personality Theories: An Introduction* (7th Edition). Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (ISBN 0-618-49662). It's available at the bookstore.

**Description:** This course is designed as an introduction to personality. The scope of this course will offer an overview of the many different perspectives/theories that attempt to encompass human personality; in essence, why we are the way we are. By the end of the course, you will be conversant in several of the prevailing theories of personality and demonstrate the ability to objectively critique them. Along the way, we will remain mindful of issues relating to the formation of human personality.

**Examinations:** There will be four tests and one quiz. Three of the tests will take place during the semester and the fourth test will occur during the final examination period. The tests will be multiple choice and possibly short answer. The exams are not cumulative. If you must miss an exam, you must notify me in advance or provide an approved excuse after the fact.

**Computer/Internet:** Some of the materials that I will provide for you will be audio/video files that require you to install free software on your computer.

1. One title you may need is QuickTime from Apple Computer. Please visit the QuickTime website and install this software for Macintosh or Windows.
2. You may also need the RealOne Player, which is also available for Macintosh or Windows.
3. Finally, all notes and other files will be distributed or available for download in Adobe Acrobat \*.pdf format. Almost all computers come preinstalled with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, but if not, please go to Adobe download site.

**Notes/Study Guides:** I do provide handouts for my lectures in hopes that you will not simply spend your time writing what you see on the screen or the board. You can download them from the webpage. Do not assume that you know it all just because you have my notes. Experience has shown me that students who do not attend class and think they can get by on downloading the notes do poorly! Similarly, at the beginning of each chapter, I will present a list of important points, big ideas, and concepts that will provide you with a glimpse of how I am organizing that chapter. The exams will be made of up largely of questions associated with these big ideas.

**Final Grade:** Your grade for the course will be computed as follows:

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Quiz 1 | 10% |
| Test 1 | 22% |
| Test 2 | 22% |
| Test 3 | 22% |
| Test 4 | 24% |

**Extra Credit:** There will be a few extra questions on the exams. Answering a question correctly will add one point to your exam score. There will be no penalty for answering incorrectly.

In addition, I am going to experiment with 1-minute written assignments that will be worth 1-point each to be applied to your lowest exam grade. You must be present to get the point. The assignment may be write a 1-minute opinion on some relevant topic. Or it might be write an exam question to be used on the next exam.

**SDS:** University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Disability Services (contact 330-672-3391) or visit [www.kent.edu/sds](http://www.kent.edu/sds) for more information on registration procedures.

| WEEK           | TOPIC   | ASSIGNMENT/NOTES  |
|----------------|---|---|
| <u>Aug-29</u>  | First Class Meeting, Introductions, Nuts & Bolts of the class<br>Discussion of philosophical underpinnings of Western Civilization, Cartesian Dualism, the Disease Model, etc.<br>What Engler means by personality?<br>The History of Personality Psychology; Personality Paradigms | Listen to Andrew Weil on Dis-ease<br>Ch. 1 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 1 Notes           |
| <u>Sept-05</u> | <b>No class Sept 5 for Labor Day Holiday</b>  |   |
|                | Complete Chapter 1; Review for Quiz 1<br><b>Quiz on Chapter 1</b>   |   |
| <u>Sept-12</u> | <b>THE PSYCHODYNAMIC PARADIGM</b>   |   |
|                | Other Psychodynamic Thinkers  | Ch. 2 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 2 Notes<br>Ch. 3 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 3 Notes              |
| <u>Sept-19</u> | Other Psychodynamic Thinkers  | Ch. 4 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 4 Notes<br>Ch. 6 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 6 Notes (p. 144-159) |
| <u>Sept-26</u> | Other Psychodynamic Thinkers<br>Review for Exam 1   |   |
| <u>Oct-03</u>  | <b>EXAM 1 Covering Chs. 2-4</b>   |   |
|                | <b>THE HUMANISTIC PARADIGM</b>  |   |
| <u>Oct-10</u>  | Other Humanistic Theorists  | Ch. 14 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 14 Notes  |
| <u>Oct-17</u>  | Review for Exam 2<br><b>Exam 2 Covering Chs. 13-14</b>  |   |
| <u>Oct-24</u>  | <b>THE TRAIT PARADIGM</b>   |   |
|                |   | Ch. 10 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 10 Notes<br>Ch. 11 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 11 Notes          |
| <u>Oct-31</u>  | Other Trait Theorists   | Ch. 12 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 12 Notes  |
| <u>Nov-07</u>  | Trait Paradigm, continued<br>Review for Exam 3  |   |

| WEEK          | TOPIC   | ASSIGNMENT/NOTES                 |
|---------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <u>Nov-14</u> | <i>Exam 3 Covering Chs. 10-12</i>   |                                  |
|               | <b>No class, Wednesday Nov 16—DMF at ABCT in DC</b>   |                                  |
| <u>Nov-21</u> | THE COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL PARADIGM   | Ch. 8 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 8 Notes   |
|               | <b>No class, Wednesday Nov 23—Thanksgiving Day Holiday</b>  |                                  |
| <u>Nov-28</u> | Cognitive-Behavioral Paradigm (continued)   | Ch. 16 Big Ideas<br>Ch. 16 Notes |
| <u>Dec-05</u> | Cognitive-Behavioral Paradigm (continued)<br>Review for Exam 4 (Final Exam)   |                                  |
|               | <b>Final Exam: Monday, December 12, 5:45 to 8:00</b>  |                                  |
|               | Covers: Chs. 8, 16<br>Really, really important!!!!!! Exam 4 is much more based on lecture notes and less so on the text than the previous exams!!!!!! |                                  |