

**PSY 403 Psychology Of Personality  
Spring 2010**

**GENERAL:**

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: 5-105

**Course website:** <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy403.htm>

Office Hours: MWF: 9:20 - 10:20 TT: 2:20 - 2:50

Office: 24E-1211A Office Phone 909-869-2281 (If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes. ***Do not leave a message on campus voice mail.*** If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

**Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Advanced study of the major [Western] contemporary approaches to personality. Emphasis on development and structure of personality. Biological, psychological, and social-cultural determinants. Dynamics and changes of personality. 4 lectures. Prerequisites: PSY 202, 203, BHS 204.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To increase your understanding of:

- A. The significant psychological theories, and their underlying assumptions, related to personality.
- B. The strengths and weaknesses of each approach
- C. Developmental, social, and biological considerations of personality
- D. The influence of culture on personality.
- E. Identifying important traits and dimensions by which personality can be described and the methods for measuring these

**TEXT:**

Ryckman, Richard M.. Theories of Personality theories: (Eighth or Ninth Edition)

**EXAMS:** Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given (**Apr 22, May 13, and June 8**) that will consist of multiple choice, matching, sentence completions, and brief essay questions. Each **exam will be worth 100 points**. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities. . ***Unless you and the instructor, prior to the exam, have made arrangements to take a test on a different date or you can document reasonable cause for failing to sit for a test, there will be no make up opportunities!***

**QUIZZES:** During the quarter there will be six, open note quizzes. You will receive 5 points for each quiz you take for a potential total of 30 points. Quizzes will normally be given at the end

of class. You will be asked to briefly answer a question addressing a topic lectured on that day. Since quizzes will be scheduled randomly it is important that you attend all classes. If you miss a class at which a quiz was given, you will only be allowed to do a make up if you document reasonable cause for not being in class on the day of the quiz.

**PAPER: A paper (worth 100 points) will be due May 27 at the beginning of class.** Your assignment is to watch one of the following films (each a classic from the 1940's and early 1950's—do not view a remake). Using one of the personality models reviewed in class, speculate on the protagonist's:

1. Personality (i.e., describe the protagonist's personality using traits/types/ dimensions defined by the model )
2. Motivation (i.e., what promotes the protagonist to do whatever he or she does)
3. Developmental experiences or issues that help explain who the person is as an adult
4. Response to perceived threat (i.e., a threat as defined by the protagonist)
5. The nature of the relationships with others

In addition to your observations of the protagonist you can use the observations that other characters in the film make about the person.

The paper is to be 4 to 5 pages long, typed, doubled spaced. **Do not write a plot summary of the film: I know these films--- believe me, I know these films---, so I don't need to be told the story. Instead you can describe certain instants (i.e., scenes) and the protagonist's behavior, words, or reactions in these to illustrate a point.**

Film	Protagonist	Year Released
Casablanca	Richard "Rick" Blaine	1943
Citizen Kane	Charles Foster Kane	1941
Night of the Hunter	Harry Powell	1955
It's A Wonderful Life	George Bailey	1947
On the Waterfront	Terry Malloy	1954
Notorious	Alicia Huberman	1946
Rebecca	The second Mrs de Winter	1940
Marty	Marty	1955
Best Years of Our Lives	Fred, Homer or Al, your choice	1946
Roman Holiday	Princess Ann aka Anya 'Smitty' Smith	1953
Shadow of a Doubt	"Young" Charlie	1943
Sunset Blvd.	Norma Desmond	1950
High Noon	Marshal Will Kane	1952
The Third Man	Holly Martins or Harry Lime, your choice	1949

**See the class web site for more instructions, examples and a sample Term Paper.**

This is an upper division class, and the paper is expected to reflect an appropriate level of grammatical and compositional mastery. The grade for this paper can be affected negatively by poor writing craftsmanship. **Turning in the term paper after the due date and time will result in a 25% penalty; a late paper MUST be faxed or e-mailed to me by midnight June 8 to be graded).**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. **Participation will have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a respected philosopher and Senator! **40 participation points are possible.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., do not raise questions about or make comments concerning the materials presented in class, or offer a point of view concerning personality theory), the maximum number of points you will receive is 10. This is a senior course, and it would be appropriate to have each student assigned to do a formal presentation. This will not be required, so I will be attentive to and making notes of students’ participation during the lectures and when students are sharing with the class what they discussed in group discussions. Remember, it is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

**NAME PLATE:** I want to know you by name. Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are. I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn’t go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name, correct me.

**COURSE WEBSITE ( [www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy403.htm](http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy403.htm)):** There is a direct link from Blackboard. The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:** The attached schedule lists the readings for each lecture. To better follow the lectures and to gain mastery of the subject of this course, it is **strongly** encourage that you complete the reading assignments *before* the lectures.

**FURLOUGH DAYS:** Apr 6 (Tues), Apr 30 (Fri), May 28 (Fri), June 10 (Thurs), June (Fri), and June 14 (Mon). I will not be on campus nor respond to e-mails on these days.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** : If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra points. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Sona system. One Sona credit will give you five class points. To earn this credit, you must do this by going on line (<http://csupomona.sona-systems.com> ) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the “New Participant Request an Account” link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the “Sign up for experiments” link. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the Sona web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given. The department’s report of student participation in experiments (and that report’s summary of students’ assignment of credits to classes) will be the sole basis for determining earned extra credit.**

**GRADING:** To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams and the papers). If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of “F.” Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

470-437	A	389-376	B-	328-315	D+
436-423	A-	375-362	C+	314-296	D
422-409	B+	361-343	C	295-282	D-
408-390	B	342-329	C-	<282	F

Grades will be posted on the class web site after the final exam

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** The school’s policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, “All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents].” See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another’s work as your own. **Students often don’t realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material or (2) do not identify the source of an idea they are summarizing in their own words.**