

**Course Syllabus, Spring 2015**  
**Psychology 471/571: Personality**  
**Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 – 5:20, 145 Straub Hall**

**Instructor:** Jordan Pennefather, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 423 Straub  
**Email:** Pennefat@UOregon.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30 and Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM

**GTF:** Jennifer Gomez  
**Office:** 230 Franklin  
**Email:** jgomez@uoregon.edu  
**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Description:** Welcome to Personality. You have likely in your daily lives thought about personality and many of the questions we will discuss this term are ones you may have asked yourself. In fact, humans are so concerned about personality we often assign them to things that don't have them (for example your car). Psychology in general is focused on describing and predicting behavior (thoughts, actions, feelings, motives, intentions), with personality psychology's focus on individual differences and similarities in personality. This objective of this course is to help you to learn to think critically about human behavior. To do this we will first discuss the methods that personality psychologists use to collect and evaluate personality. We will also discuss classic and contemporary theories of personality and what they can tell us about human behavior. It includes both the study of individual differences and the study of the processes within a person that lead to stable behavioral patterns. This course addresses both and emphasizes both the biological and social antecedents of personality about equally. *This course has extensive readings; you are expected to read everything assigned.*

**Required Readings:** Weekly readings from the textbook will be required for all students. Additionally, students will be required to read supplemental journal articles for some of the sections. The supplemental readings will be made available online (Blackboard). The schedule lists some readings, but these may be changed with notice via email and in class.

**Text:** Funder, D. C. (2013). *The personality puzzle* (6th ed.). New York: Norton

**Course Requirements:** Your grade for this class will be based on 4 things:

1. **Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will include questions taken from the text, lecture, and the supplemental readings. There is no way to cover all of the information contained in the textbook during lecture, so doing well on the exams will require that you learn from the textbook, supplemental readings, and the lecture. Exams will mostly be multiple choice, though short answer and mini-essay questions may also be included. The final exam will NOT be cumulative. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final grade.

*Makeup Exams:* It is important to be prepared and present for all scheduled exams. However, I recognize that there are some situations in which you simply cannot make it to an exam. In the case of a serious illness, emergency, religious observance, or university sponsored event, make up exams will be allowed. If you have a scheduled university sponsored event or religious observance, you must let me know well in advance of the listed exam date (at least 1 week) and we will arrange for you to take an exam before you leave. If you have a serious illness or an emergency, you must let me know prior to the exam (before 9:00am) and we will make arrangements for a make-up. Documentation that verifies the event (e.g., a note from a physician) will be required upon request. If you have questions about what type of documentation is required for a specific situation, contact me.

**2. Paper:** You will have one paper due during the term. You will select two tests of personality (I will have some available, though with approval you can use others) and discuss the theory behind those tests. You will then complete the two tests and have one other person (well known to you) and have them complete the tests as well. You will then compare and contrast your results on the two tests, the other person's results on the two tests, and then the results of your test results to those of the other person (20% of grade). At least 4 peer-reviewed journal articles should be included as references. More details on this assignment will be given as we progress. Additionally, you will each submit a draft which will then be reviewed by another student and returned to you for editing First draft due 5/18, the reviewed copy returned on 5/25, and the final draft due 6/2.

**3. Reading Responses:** You are required to read the chapter and supplemental reading for each section. To help you make a personal connection to the reading matter you will complete weekly reading responses on Blackboard. These questions will be graded out of 8 points, and each response should be about a half page single spaced. Completed responses will be submitted via Blackboard and will be worth 20% of your final grade. There will be multiple questions each week (expect 1-2 per week; with a total of 16 over the term), you will be responsible for completing at 10 of the total questions over the term. Reading responses for the week will be due Sunday at midnight.

**4. In-Class Activities:** Attendance is not required but is strongly recommended. We will cover some material in class that is not in the textbook. Additionally, there will be in-class activities that will be awarded points, if you are not in class you will not receive the points, there will be no make-ups for in-class activities.

**Grading:** Your final grade in the course is based on your total points accumulated on the two tests, your paper, attendance, and in-class assignments, as described above. To summarize:

Exams (100 points each)	= 200 points
Paper (65 points for final draft 15 for first draft and review)	= 80 points
In-class Activities	= 40 points
Reading Responses (10 at 8 points each)	= 80 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 400 points</b>

The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent.

A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	59.9% or below

**Special Requirements for Graduate Students (Psychology 571).** 571 students have additional requirements which include a second paper and an increased number of reading responses.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me during the first week of classes. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; [disabsrv@uoregon.edu](mailto:disabsrv@uoregon.edu); <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>). If you have a non-documented disability, I encourage you to contact Disabilities Services.

**Cheating/plagiarism:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams, copying answers off of other students during exams, having other students help you falsify your attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated in this class. At the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. I encourage you to review the University policy on academic dishonesty; you are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy.

***Class Etiquette & Norms:***

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
- Treat your fellow students and your instructors with respect.
  - Turn the ringer off on your cell phone during class.
- If you attend class, please be attentive (no texting, reading novels, web-surfing, etc).
  - Ask questions and speak up during class.
- Stop by and see Jordan and Jennifer during office hours.
- Attendance is not required; do not attend class at all if you cannot meet these norms.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Reading is to be completed **before** the first class for which it is listed. I reserve the right to change the selected readings, though this will be announced via email.

Class Date	Topic	Reading
3/31	Introduction to Personality	Chapter 1
4/2	Research Methods	Chapters 2-3; Gosling et al., 2002
4/7	Person-Situation	Chapter 4; Vazire & Carlson, 2011
4/9	Personality Testing	Chapter 5
4/14	Everyday Personality Assessment	Chapter 6; Saucier 2009
4/16	Structure of Personality	Chapter 7; Dweck, 2008
4/21	Biology and Physiology	Chapter 8;
4/23	Genetics and Evolution	Chapter 9; Krueger & Johnson
4/28	Catch-up/Review	
4/30	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
5/4	Psychoanalysis	Chapter 10
5/6	Defense Mechanisms	Chapter 11
5/11	Post-Freud	Chapter 12
5/13	Humanistic Approach	Chapter 13
5/18	Cultural Variation	Chapter 14; Park & Rothbart, 1982
	<b>-First Draft of Paper Due</b>	
5/20	Learning Theories	Chapter 15; Neal, Wood, & Quinn, 2006
5/25	Personality Processes	Chapter 16
	<b>-Reviewed Copy Returned</b>	
5/27	The Self	Chapter 17
6/2	Personality Disorders	Chapter 18
	<b>-Final Draft of Paper Due</b>	
6/4	Catch-up and review	
12/13	<b>Final Exam - Friday Dec 13 at 8:00 am</b>	