



COUGARS

Syllabus for PSYC 340-002

Theories of Personality

In-Person; Alumni Hall 0401

Department of Psychology

Spring 2026

Mondays 4:00 PM to 6:50 PM

About the Instructor

Name: Samantha Murphy, MA, NHA-CPT

Email: samurph@siue.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

All office hours are held via Zoom. The link is available on Blackboard. If you cannot attend office hours during the above-mentioned time, please contact me via email to discuss scheduling an appointment.

Welcome

Welcome to Theories of Personality (PSYC 340-002)! I am overjoyed to spend the semester diving into the interesting depths of personality with you.

Bio

I received my Master's in Clinical Psychology from Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville (SIUE). Prior to that I attended Lindenwood University – Belleville (LUB) for two years working on my Bachelor's in Psychology while also playing collegiate softball. I spent the last two years of undergraduate at University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL) where I received a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Certificate in Trauma Studies. I started my research career focusing in neuroscience and neuropsychology while an undergraduate at UMSL. I have conducted research at St. Louis Children's Hospital, SIUE, Saint Louis University (SLU), and currently Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) where I work for the Radiology Clinical Research Core. My research broadly focuses on various conditions that impact the brain structurally and changes in cognition including traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer's disease. Additionally, some of my research focuses on the development of neuropsychological assessments for culturally relevant measurement of cognitive change.

Teaching Philosophy

My courses focus on individual review of assigned reading with lecture focusing on core competencies from the readings and how to apply these competencies. Lecture will include engaging activities in addition to discussions and time for questions. Assignments will focus in applying knowledge obtained from this course. I believe that you will learn from my teachings, but that I will also learn from you.

Communicating with the instructor

Please contact me via email or through office hours. My typical response time frame is within 24 to 48 hours. However, please do not hesitate to have brief discussions with me prior to or post class sessions. If contacting me via email, please include the course number in the subject line (i.e., *PSYC 340: Assignment question*).

All course updates will be sent via Blackboard.

About the Course

Course description

This course will provide an overview of the constructs, assumptions, and validity of the major personality theories. Additionally, the course will offer some insights into how the personal and professional lives of the foremost personality theorists influenced the theories they developed.

Successful completion of this course results in the completion of three credit hours.

Prerequisite knowledge

PSYC 111: Foundations of Psychology

Course goals and objectives

By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to demonstrate:

- Increased knowledge of the major personality theorists and their theories.
- Increased knowledge about theoretical constructs associated with a variety of personality theories.
- Increased knowledge of the major tools used in personality assessment.
- Ability to apply personality theories.
- Ability to communicate information about personality theories and/or constructs in writing.

Course textbooks

Schultz, D.P., & Schultz, S.E. (2017) Theories of Personality, 11th Ed. Wadsworth-Cengage Publishers.

Students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information.

Other course materials

Additional reading (i.e., manuscripts) as assigned via Blackboard.

Technology Privacy Information

We will be using Blackboard in this course. View the [Anthology Blackboard Privacy Statement](#) to review how your data is being used and stored.

Course Requirements and Policies

Submitting work

Unless otherwise noted, you will turn in all assignments through Blackboard.

All assignments are **required** to be in American Psychological Association (APA) 7th Edition format. Guidelines can be found on Purdue Owl's [website](#) if an APA manual is not available for your use. Please review the [Sample APA 7 Student Paper](#) and utilize it as a guide for all assignments in this course. References and in-text citations are **required** if referring to the textbook or other materials. **Points will be deducted if these requirements are not met.**

Please review the file name in which you have saved your document under before submitting via Blackboard. Although not required, an example of an appropriate file name is *PSYC 340_Reflection_LastName*.

All assignments are to be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Do not send document links to OneDrive or other systems. Late deductions will be applied if a document is inaccessible.

Academic integrity/plagiarism

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks even when citing the source or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those

of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's student Academic Code.

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the [Student Academic Code \(3C2\)](#) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](#). Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University's Student Academic Conduct Code](#).

University guidance on artificial intelligence (AI)

Unless expressly allowed by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, DALL-E, and others) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy and is prohibited.

Use of AI in this course for production of assignments is prohibited.

Assignments and Grading

Exams (150 points). There will be three written exams throughout the semester (*See Course Schedule below*). Exams will be comprised of 50 multiple choice and/or matching questions.

Syllabus quiz (10 points). The syllabus quiz will be available on Blackboard immediately after our first class. It can only be completed once. The quiz will include 10 multiple choice questions in which all answers can be located on the class syllabus.

Freud and Reality TV (30 points). Upon completion of our Sigmund Freud lectures, you will be required to complete a written assignment in which you watch an episode of a reality TV show and analyze a character based on Freud's theories. You will be required to complete the assignment as stated on the Freud and Reality TV hand-out located in Blackboard.

Case Studies (30 points each). You will be presented with four opportunities to review a case study utilizing theories presented by a specific personality theorist we discussed in class and provide responses to the assigned prompts. **Although there are four opportunities, you must only pick two to complete.** Choose your two favorite of the four or whichever deadlines work best for your schedule, so long as you complete two of the four case studies! Ensure that your thoughts are thorough, specific, and complete when responding to the prompts. There are not minimum response length requirements so long as you make a well-rounded and supported argument in each response. Case studies and prompts can be found under each theorist specific case study hand-out on Blackboard.

Personality Theories Reflection (30 points). Near the end of the course, you will complete a written reflection of theorists we discussed during the course and your current thoughts on personality. Prompts can be found on the Personality Theories Reflection hand-out on Blackboard.

Your course grades will be based on your combined performance on exams and assignments.

Exams

Exam One	50 points
Exam Two	50 points
Exam Three	50 points

Course Grade

A: 252 – 280 points
B: 224 – 251 points
C: 196 – 223 points
D: 168 – 195 points
F: < 168 points

Assignments

Syllabus Quiz	10 points
Freud and Reality TV	30 points
Case Studies (Choose Two)	60 points (30 points each)

Adler / Erikson / Costa & McCrae / Bandura	
Personality Theories Reflection	30 points

Total Possible Points	280 points
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Feedback and grading timeline

Assignment grades with any necessary feedback will typically be posted within two to three business days after the submission deadline; however, some assignments may take longer to grade. You can find your grade by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course. If there is a rubric attached to the assignment, you can click your score to see my personal feedback on the rubric.

Late or Missed Assignments/Rewrites

It is expected that all assignments are turned in by the deadline listed below. Late assignments drop a letter grade for each day they are late, starting with the day the assignment is due (i.e., an assignment turned in one hour late drops one letter grade). After all letter grades are exhausted, 5 points will be deducted per day later thereafter. In cases of documented emergencies exceptions may be made. It is up to the student to talk with the instructor about whether an exception can be made.

If you must miss an exam because you are involved in a university-sponsored activity (i.e., member of a sports team, etc.), you may take an exam **early**. To do this you must notify us at least one week prior to the exam to arrange a test date.

If you must miss an exam because of a personal/family emergency (i.e., death in the family), you will only be eligible for a make-up exam if you: notify us immediately and provide documentation for the even that caused you to miss the exam. You will have one week to schedule and complete the make-up exam unless otherwise discussed and arranged. All make-up exams will be scheduled at the university testing center according to their hours of availability.

Participation

It is vitally important that our classroom environment promotes the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs expressed during online discussions. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement, and active participation in all course activities. Success in this course requires that you adhere to the deadlines given below as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities.

It is expected that you attend lectures and participate in class discussion/activities. We all learn from each other's opinions, thoughts, and questions. Your participation not only enhances your learning experience but also contributes to the learning experience for each of us.

It is expected that you complete all assigned reading as scheduled. The majority of reading in this course will come from the text; however, I will occasionally provide you with supplemental reading material on Blackboard. I will not cover all text material in class; therefore, it is important for you to keep up with the reading.

I do not share PowerPoint slides on Blackboard or via email. If you miss class, you are still responsible for the material covered, assignments given out, and for any assignments due that day. Assignments not turned in on the due date will be considered late and points will be deducted. Not being present for class is not an acceptable excuse for turning in a late assignment, not getting a new assignment, or not getting handouts/notes. When you miss class, it is up to you to get the notes and handouts from another student. You may also see me during office hours to get handouts you have missed.

Extra credit may be awarded at random for class attendance and participation as this provides an equal opportunity for all students to receive credit. This is provided at instructor discretion. Extra credit will not be granted upon request from

a student due to a suffering grade. I will hold a section review prior to each exam in which in-class participation may result in extra credit points toward the exam. I heavily recommend attending section reviews.

Children in the classroom

As a parent myself, I never want a student to have to choose between caring for a child and their education. Should you be faced with unforeseen circumstances, your child is welcome in my classroom. Although this should not be seen as a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class due to unforeseen circumstances is more than acceptable. In cases such as these, I ask that all students contribute to the creation of a welcoming environment for all including children.

Class behavior

You are expected to show respect for your classmates' ideas and opinions. As college students it is expected that you be open to a variety of viewpoints and opinions even though you may have a differing point of view.

As a courtesy to your classmates, please turn all cell phones to silent and/or vibrate mode. Wearing headphones or utilizing your cell phone is prohibited in class.

The utilization of electronic devices for note taking in class is permitted (i.e., tablet, laptop, etc.); however, these devices should not be used for anything, but items directly related to this course during class sessions.

Although I want you to be engaged in the material and to discuss it with your classmates, please limit private conversation during class. Excessive conversation is not only rude, but distracting and disruptive. Please save these discussions for outside of class.

It is understood that "things happen" causing you to be late to class. If you arrive late to class, please take a seat in the back as quietly as possible to limit disruption to the class.

Technology requirements and capabilities

Technical requirements for students can be found in this [ITS KnowledgeBase article](#). Additional resources for learning with technology can be found on the [Online at SIUE site](#).

Technical Support

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](tel:618-650-5500) or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](#), or search the [ITS KnowledgeBase](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

University Policies and Information

- **University policies and guidance that address teaching, learning, and student support services are available at: <https://kb.siue.edu/132378> Students are encouraged to visit this resource site for current information on:** Regular and Substantive Interaction
- Recordings of Class Content
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy
- Services for Students Needing Accommodations (ACCESS)
- Academic and Other Student Services (Library, Academic Success, Tutoring, etc.)
- Cougar Care
- Student Success Coaches

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Course Schedule:

Week/Module	Learning Activities	Assignments & Due Dates All due at 11:59 pm CST unless noted otherwise
Week 1 January 12th <i>Syllabus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the syllabus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus quiz [Due Friday, January 16th]
Week 2 January 19th	No class – Martin Luther King holiday!	
Week 3 January 26th <i>Freud</i>	Online Video Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1 • Read Chapter 2 <p><i>**We will not have in-person lecture on this date. Rather, a video lecture will be available for review.</i></p>	
Week 4 February 2nd <i>Jung & Adler</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3 • Read Chapter 4 	
Week 5 February 9th <i>Horney</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5 • Review Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freud and Reality TV assignment [Due Monday, February 9th]
Week 6 February 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exam 1</u> 	
Week 7 February 23rd <i>Erikson</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adler Case Study [Due Monday, February 23rd]
Week 8 March 2nd <i>Skinner</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 12 	

Week/Module	Learning Activities	Assignments & Due Dates All due at 11:59 pm CST unless noted otherwise
Week 9 March 9th	No class – Spring Break!	
Week 10 March 16th <i>Eysenck, Five-Factor, & Dark Triad</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8 • Review Chapters 6, 8, & 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erikson Case Study [Due Monday, March 16th]
Week 11 March 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exam 2</u> 	
Week 12 March 30th <i>Bandura</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Five Case Study [Due Monday, March 30th]
Week 13 April 6th <i>Kelly</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 11 	
Week 14 April 13th <i>Maslow & Rogers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 9 • Read Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bandura Case Study [Due Monday, April 13th]
Week 15 April 20th <i>Positive Psychology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 14 • Review Chapters 9, 10, 11, 13, & 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Theories Reflection [Due Monday, April 20th]
Week 16 April 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exam 3</u> 	
Week 17 May 4th	No class or exam during finals week!	