



COUGARS

Syllabus for PSYC 340-701

Theories of Personality – Fully Online

Department of Psychology

Summer, 2025

6/2/25 – 7/5/25

About the Instructor

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Office Hours: Mondays 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Central time) via Zoom or by appointment:

Zoom Link for Office Hours: <https://siue.zoom.us/j/3376880271>

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- Or visit our website: <https://www.siue.edu/education/psychology/>

Welcome

Welcome to *Theories of Personality*! I'm very excited to teach this class and look forward to working with each of you.

Bio

I have been a faculty member in the SIUE Psychology Department since 2004 and teach undergraduate and graduate courses. I grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Cincinnati. I received my Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in clinical psychology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Communicating with the instructor

Anytime you have questions or want to talk about the course material, feel free to email me at dsegris@siue.edu. And if you'd like to meet to talk over Zoom but are not able to meet during my office hours, email me with days/times that you're available and we can arrange a time to meet.

About the Course

This is a 3-credit hour course. 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.

Prerequisite knowledge

- PSYC 111 is a prerequisite for this course

Course goals and objectives

It is my goal that by the completion of this course you will have demonstrated:

- an increased knowledge of the major personality theorists and an understanding of their theories
- increased knowledge about theoretical constructs associated with a variety of personality theories
- an increased knowledge of some of the major tools used in personality assessment
- an ability to apply personality theories
- an ability to communicate information about personality theories and/or constructs in writing

Course textbook and readings

- Schultz, D.P., & Schultz, S.E. (2017). *Theories of Personality, 11th Ed.* Wadsworth-Cengage Publishers
- Other readings as assigned (provided on Blackboard)

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option “Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these.” Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

Course Requirements

Course activities/assessments

Each week the course will focus on topics related to the theories of personality. On a weekly basis you will be expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbook, watch lectures, submit Discussion posts/responses, and take a quiz. Throughout the semester you will take three exams and turn in two case studies. At the conclusion of the course you will turn in a reflection paper (assignment is described below).

Submitting work

All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard.

Online class behavior

- **Reflect** before you post an emotional response and make sure that what you post is professional. Communicate as if your comments are printed in a newspaper.
- **Communicate** effectively. Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.).
- **Sign your name.** Take responsibility for your posts in order to build a strong classroom community.
- **Foster community.** Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course.
- **Be constructive.** Challenge ideas and the course content but do so in positive ways. It’s fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate and encourage helpful discussion, and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.
- **Keep the conversation on the topic.** Online dialogue is like a conversation. If there is a particular dialogue going on, please add to it, but if you have something new to say, start a new thread.

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. Additional guidance for taking online courses can be found on the [Online at SIUE site](#).

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.

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

Course Grades

Your course grade will be based on your combined performance on quizzes, exams, Discussion posts/responses, and a reflection paper. All assignments should be turned in via Blackboard.

- **Syllabus Quiz**
 - During the first week of the course there will be a 10-question syllabus quiz worth 10 points. You may use your syllabus when taking the quiz. Once you have started the quiz you will be given one hour to complete it.
- **Weekly Quizzes**
 - There will be a multiple-choice quiz worth 5 points each week that will focus only on that week's material. You may take each quiz up to two times and only your highest score will count toward your grade. You may use your notes, course handouts, and textbook while you take the quizzes. Once you have started a quiz you will be given 45 minutes to complete it.
- **Exams**
 - There will be three multiple-choice exams worth 50 points each. You may use your notes, course handouts, and textbook while you take the exam. Once you have started an exam you will be given 90 minutes to complete it.
- **Discussion Posts**
 - An important component of this course involves engaging with the material by discussing specific topics with your classmates. During the course you will be asked to create Discussion posts in response to specific prompts. The purpose of these posts is for you to demonstrate and share your knowledge of specific course topics and to communicate your understanding, opinions, and experiences to your classmates.
- **Discussion Responses**
 - You will also be asked to respond to students' Discussion posts (two responses for each of the five Discussion posts during the course).

Your discussion board posts and responses will be graded using the scale/rubric below:

- **0 points:** No post/reply is made or post/reply is not made in a timely way; post/reply uses offensive language
- **2-4 points (post)/1 -2 points (response):** Post/response reflects minimal effort and/or does not show thoughtful consideration
- **5-7 points (post)/3 points (response):** Post/response is adequate in terms of content/length.
- **8-10 points (post)/4-5 points (response):** Post/response is a very thoughtful and meaningful contribution to the discussion.

- **Reflection Paper**

- During the semester we will have discussed a number of personality theorists and their theories:

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| • Freud | • Erikson | • Social Learning Theories (e.g., Mischel, Rotter, Bandura) |
| • Jung | • Skinner/Behaviorism | • Rogers |
| • Horney | • Trait Theories (e.g., Big Five, Dark Triad/Tetrad) | • Maslow |
| • Adler | | |

- In your reflection paper you should discuss the following:
 - Which theory/theorist **fits best** with how you think about personality? Be specific and provide examples of ideas/constructs from the theory that fit with your views of personality.
 - Which theory/theorist **fits least** with how you think about personality? What specific aspects of the theory do you find difficult to accept?
 - Have your ideas about personality changed in any way as a result of anything we covered in this course? If so, what has changed?
- The paper should be double-spaced and at least 2.5 pages in length. The paper should have 1-inch margins and use an 11- or 12-point Times New Roman font. 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.
- You do not have to provide citations or a reference page unless you use outside sources such as your textbook or journal articles. If you do provide citations and references, those should be formatted using APA style.

Your Reflection will be graded using the scale/rubric below:

- **0 points:** no paper is turned in; paper contains plagiarism
- **34 points or less:** paper reflects minimal effort; paper is 1 page or less
- **35-39 points:** paper shows some thoughtful consideration; paper is less than 2.5 pages; significant grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors
- **40 points-44 points:** paper shows thoughtful reflection; some grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors
- **45-50 points:** paper is very well written and demonstrates a very thoughtful and insightful reflection

Grading Scale

- Syllabus Quiz 10 points
- Weekly Quiz 25 points (5 points per quiz)
- Exams 150 points (50 points per exam)
- Introduction Post 5 points
- Discussion Posts 50 points (10 points per post)
- Discussion Responses 50 points (5 points per response)
- Reflection Paper 50 points

FINAL COURSE GRADE

A: 306-340 points

B: 272-205 points

C: 238-271 points

D: 204-237 points

F: < 204 points

Late or Missed Assignments

Late assignments will drop one letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Exceptions may be made in cases of illness or emergency – but for that to happen the student must contact the instructor and discuss the situation with him as soon as possible.

Turnitin

This course will utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. [Find out more about using Turnitin](#). Visit the [Turnitin Services Privacy Policy](#) for additional information on their privacy policy.

Recordings of Course Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

Course Schedule

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, monitor your email, and review the Blackboard site for any announcements regarding changes in course material, assignments, and/or due dates.

WEEK 1 (6/2 – 6/8)				
MODULE	TOPIC	READ	WATCH	ASSIGNMENTS
Module 1	What is personality/personality assessment?	Chapter 1 (pp. 1-24, 29-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus Tour Is there a real you? What is personality? Personality theories How do we study and assess personality? 	Syllabus Quiz DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/4 Discussion Post: Introduce Yourself DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/4
Module 2	Sigmund Freud	Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freud's view of human nature Freud's structural model of personality Freud's psychosexual stage theory 	Discussion Forum #1 Post DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/5 Responses to Discussion Forum #1 Posts DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/8
Module 3	Carl Jung	Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jung's view of human nature and the unconscious Archetypes Multifaceted personality The power of introverts 	Quiz for Week 1 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/7
WEEK 2 (6/9-6/15)				
Module 4	Alfred Adler	Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adler's assumptions Inferiority and social interest Styles of life and the three problems of life Family influences on personality 	Discussion Forum #2 Post DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/12 Responses to Discussion Forum #2 Posts DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/15
Module 5	Karen Horney	Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horney's challenges to Freud Personality development The idealized self and the "tyranny of the 'shoulds'" 	Quiz for Week 2 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/14 Exam #1 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/15

WEEK 3 (6/16-6/22)				
MODULE	TOPIC	READ	WATCH	ASSIGNMENTS
Module 6	Erik Erikson	Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erikson's assumptions Erikson stages 1-4 Erikson stages 5-8 Identity status 	Discussion Forum #3 Post DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/20
Module 7	B.F. Skinner	Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skinner and operant conditioning Skinner and radical behaviorism 	Responses to Discussion Forum #3 Posts DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/22
Module 8	Trait Theories: Factor Analysis, Hans Eysenck	Chapter 8 (pp. 226-230)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trait theories and factor analysis Eysenck 	Quiz for Week 3 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/21
Module 9	Trait Theories: Five Factor Model, Dark Triad/Tetrad	Chapter 8 (pp. 230-238, 240-241)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five factor model Dark triad/tetrad 	Exam #2 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/22
WEEK 4 (6/23-6/29)				
Module 10	Social Learning Theory: Walter Mischel		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mischel 	Discussion Forum #4 Post DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/26
Module 11	Social Learning Theory: Julian Rotter, Albert Bandura	Chapter 14, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotter Bandura 	Responses to Discussion Forum #4 Posts DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/29
Module 12	Claude Steele and Stereotype Threat	Definition of stereotype threat (BB) Stereotype threat widens achievement gap (BB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stereotype threat: A conversation with Claude Steele Stereotype threat 	Quiz for Week 4 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 6/28
WEEK 5 (6/30-7/5)				
Module 13	Humanist Theories: Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow	Chapter 10, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rogers Maslow 	Reflection Paper DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 7/1
Module 14	Positive Psychology	Chapter 14 (pp. 395-403)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive psychology 	Discussion Forum #5 Post DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 7/2
Module 15	Positive Psychology: Humor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humor 	Responses to Discussion Forum #5 Posts DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 7/3
				Quiz for Week 5 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 7/2
				Exam #3 DUE: 11:59 p.m. on 7/4

