

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
Department of Arts, Commerce and Education

Course Outline: PY2330: Personality

Fall Semester, 2003 – 2004

Instructor:	Kendel Tang, Ph.D.	Course Credit Hours:	3 (UT: Alberta)
Office No.:	C427	Course Section:	A2
Office Hours:	2:30 – 4:00 p, MW	Class Time:	2:30 – 3:50 p, TR
Office Phone. No.:	539-2867	Student Contact Hours:	3/wk
E-Mail Address:	ktang@gprc.ab.ca	Delivery Mode:	Classroom lecture, and discussion
		Course Prerequisites:	PY1040, PY1050

Course Description

Psychology 2330 is intended to provide an introduction to the field of Personality and, as a reflection of the specialized nature of the course, will focus on a relatively detailed exploration of the work of a selection of the major theorists in the field. Specific areas examined in the course will include a study of the classical and contemporary viewpoints of human nature elaborated within the psychodynamic, humanistic/existential/phenomenological, cognitive, behavioural, trait, neuropsychological, social/cognitive, and information-processing perspectives.

The course is designed to acquaint students with the essential structures and processes of selected theories, plus discussion of their major contributions and their strengths and limitations in the context of the inherent difficulty involved in developing a suitably concise yet sophisticated model of human behaviour. In an attempt to develop optimal levels of understanding of the material, the format of the course will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and other relevant learning activities. All students are expected to be actively involved in class discussions and other learning experiences.

Course Objectives

1. The successful student should demonstrate an understanding of the relevant concepts, terminology and theoretical assumptions of the personality theories studied in this course and, in addition, should be aware of the major positive and negative criticisms directed at them as well as the research on which these criticisms are based.
2. The student should be able to evaluate each theory in relation to identified standard criteria for evaluation.
3. The student should be able to identify the similarities and differences among the various theories of personality and eventually attempt to synthesize and incorporate aspects of these theories into his/her own theory of personality development.

4. The student should be able to apply certain principles of selected theories towards a clearer understanding of his/her own personality. He/she should be able to interpret the results of selected self/administered personality tests.

Text:

Personality: Theory and Research (8th ed., 2001) by Pervin, L.A. & John, O.P.
 Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Grading System

Alpha Grade	4-Point Equivalence	Descriptor
A+	4.0	Excellent
A	4.0	Excellent
A-	3.7	First Class Standing
B+	3.3	First Class Standing
B	3.0	Good
B-	2.7	Good
C+	2.3	Satisfactory
C	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	1.3	Poor
D	1.0	Minimal Pass
F	0.0	Failure

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of chapter tests (Test 1 and 2)	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Term Paper	20%
Class Involvement (based on degree of participation in class discussions, number and quality of questions asked indicating interest and curiosity, and participation in other assigned learning activities)	10%
Total:	100%

Course Requirement

Each student is required to write a term paper on a topic that is relevant to the course objectives after consultation with the instructor. An outline of the paper should be submitted to the instructor no later than Nov. 18, 2003. Early consultation is strongly recommended. The instructor will provide students with a list of possible topics to choose from but the student's choice is not limited

to the topics on the list. The paper should be typewritten (double-spaced) and should be between 8 and 10 pages in length including a list of references with at least 5 entries. The format and style of the paper should conform to the guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual (5th ed.), which is available in the library. Rules for Writers (available in the College bookstore) by Diana Hacker is also highly recommended. Major deviations from the prescribed format will result in a deduction of at most 20 percentage points from the paper's grade. A deduction of 5% from the paper's grade will also be imposed for every day that the paper is submitted later than Dec. 4, 2003. A presentable paper should not contain grammatical and spelling errors which will reduce the paper's grade by a maximum of 10 points. This is a gentle reminder that plagiarism is not tolerated by the College. See the College calendar (p. 40) for possible penalties. The instructor is aware of web sites on the Internet that offer term papers for a fee.

Additional Course Information

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered, readings assigned, and any announcements that will be made in class from time to time. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students are expected to attend class regularly (no less than 80% attendance) and to read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except, of course, for the first session. Past course records show that class attendance is highly correlated with final grade in the course.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write a test or exam at a scheduled time due to illness or emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's voice mail (539-2867) or e-mail (ktang@gprc.ab.ca) together with a phone number where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test, if feasible. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed, unless proof is presented that the student was physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness or emergency or to unavoidable circumstances beyond the student's control.

If a student is unable to write the final exam for a valid reason, he/she should ask the instructor for a deferred exam and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam (see the College calendar about deferred exams). Otherwise, students are advised against making any plans that will prevent them from writing tests or exams on the scheduled dates.

Every student is strongly encouraged to talk to the instructor after class in his office or in the hallway about any concerns related to the course or just to further discuss the course material.

Please keep this course information sheet for future reference.