

PSYC 2240 Syllabus

Personality Theory, Section ROX, 3 Credits

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christopher Stanzione, Ph.D.

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General Course Information

Description

Examines major theoretical perspectives on personality, including psychodynamic, trait, humanistic, social-cognitive, and biological approaches. Emphasizes the structure, development, and assessment of personality, as well as applications to behavior, well-being, and individual differences.

Course Learning Outcomes

Evaluate empirical personality research by identifying research questions, methods, findings, and limitations in peer-reviewed studies.

2. **Analyze personality from multiple theoretical perspectives**, including trait, situational, biological, developmental, and social-cognitive approaches.

3. **Apply personality research to real-world contexts** (e.g., work, health, relationships, culture) while recognizing ethical boundaries and risks of misuse.

4. **Integrate evidence across studies** to form qualified, evidence-based claims about personality, rather than relying on intuition or single studies.

5. **Revise and refine interpretations of personality** as new evidence is introduced, demonstrating intellectual flexibility and scientific reasoning.

6. **Communicate psychological analysis clearly and professionally** in both written (portfolio entries, worksheets) and oral (analytical presentations) formats.

7. **Collaborate effectively in small groups** to discuss, evaluate, and present scientific evidence.

Required Course Materials

There is not a required textbook for this course, however, you are expected to read several empirical articles in addition to other assigned readings (all posted to Canvas).

Grading Policy:

Assessment	How Many?	Points	Total
Content Quizzes	5	15 pts each	75
Analytical Presentation	2	15 pts each	30
Group Article Analysis	5	12 pts each	60
Character Analysis	1	30 pts	30
Exams	3	75 pts each	225
TOTAL			420

Course Points	Letter Grade
420 - 378	A
377 - 336	B
335 - 294	C *needed for P/F
293 - 252	D
< 251	F

Description of Graded Components

Assessment	Description
Content Quizzes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quizzes that cover lecture material; exam preparation• Each quiz allows for 2 attempts, highest score recorded
Analytical Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groups present twice throughout the semester on an assigned area of an empirical article. Details outlined in the assignment section of Canvas.
Group Article Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students work in groups to complete an article analysis• Handed out and submitted in class
Character Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying personality theories
Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple choice/short answer

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Institute approved absences: This absence is usually for a GT event (conference, sports event, etc). You must submit this form at least 5 days prior to the absence and get me the approval ASAP: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/institute-approved-absence-form-for-students>

Personal emergencies: Students may need to miss classes due to personal emergencies such as being hospitalized or being in a car accident. The Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students can assist students with documented emergencies by contacting professors on behalf of the student. For more information, please call the Office of the Vice

President and Dean of Students or complete this form: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?GeorgiaTech=&layout_id=3

Religious holidays: Please contact the Instructor ASAP to reschedule missed work.

Illness: If you are sick, you are responsible to get class notes from a student in class. Because all group article analyses are done in-person, there is no way for you to makeup this collaboration later.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

[Core IMPACTS](#) is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. If you are teaching a course that counts towards Core IMPACTS, you should include a syllabus statement about the Core area and associated [career competencies](#). [This resource](#) developed by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Online Education at Georgia State University includes template syllabus statements for each of the Core IMPACTS areas that you may adapt for your course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.