PSY 236, Personality Psychology, Fall 2024

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday, from *11:30PM to 12:20PM***

Psychology Building 118

## Instructor: Dr. Emily (Doner) Rolan

## Pronouns: she/her

*Preferred name: Dr. Rolan (I am listed as Dr. Doner in campus solutions, but I prefer to go by Dr. Rolan)*

Psychology 110D

Email: [doneremi@msu.edu](mailto:doneremi@msu.edu)

To book an appointment (in-person or virtual) visit:

https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/a5e22dfebca54ac5a6cd76bd908a43c3@msu.edu?anonymous&ep=plink

## TA: Name: Taylor Martin

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## UA: Name: Mackenzie Meerschaert

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Office Hours: See D2L Folder

# Required Materials

This course will use Tophat, including the custom textbook, *Personality*, written for this course. The *Personality* text is available via Tophat and is included in the Tophat course (called “Personality Text”). See the [Tophat section](#_Top_Hat_PRO) below for information about how to access the course text and site.

Other readings will be provided to you via D2L. Their due dates are listed on the course calendar below. Top Hat will be used in this course for the course textbook, as well as in-class activities. Exams will be hosted on D2L. Therefore, you must have access to both the TopHat course and the D2L site for this course.

# Course Description

Theories of personality, assessment techniques, and research on personality functioning and individual differences in interpersonal behavior. Emphasis on normal behavior.

# Course Overview

At the end of this course, I hope you will have gained an appreciation of (1) both the lawful nature and the complexity of patterns of human personality; (2) why individual differences in personality exist; (3) what the different levels of personality are; (4) how the different levels of personality develop over the lifespan; and (5) how personality science helps us to understand an individual human life.

# Course requirements

## Attendance and attention.

You should attend all class meetings for which it is possible for you to do so, and importantly, you should strive to minimize distractions to your learning and maximize your attention to the course.

Lectures notes from each lecture will be posted to D2L. These can be reviewed at any time if you missed a class or as you review material to complete assignments or prepare for exams. Note that class material are not to be shared except with other students enrolled in this course.

# In-Class Activities and Assigned Reading (TOP HAT)

**In-Class Activities:** I will periodically administer questions that are basic “attention checks” that you are aware of the main points being discussed in class. These will serve as participation/attendance points. Please note, these questions are administered via tophat and can be answered with a phone or computer. *You will see many of these questions or similar questions again on your exams.* There is consistent evidence that repeated testing of material results in greater learning. Therefore, responding too and discussing in-class activities gives you advance knowledge of some exam items. These will be administered remotely via tophat and are open notes/book. You will receive credit for responding to/participating in the activities.

**Assigned Readings:** The assigned readings are the primary material for stimulating class discussion and will also serve (along with lecture material) as the basis for exam questions. You are responsible for completing the material listed for each course meeting. These are primarily the chapters in the *Personality* text on TopHat, but also include a few pdfs of journal articles as well (available on D2L). You can find the textbook at the very top of the course material in the TopHat course site. There is a separate folder for each chapter. There are 5 study questions at the end of each chapter; these must be completed according to due dates listed on the [course calendar](#_Course_Calendar). Each reading assignment is worth 5 points (total of 60 points for reading assignments), and has unlimited attempts.

Your final “Tophat grade” is a combination of % in-class activities and the scores for completion and accuracy of reading items; I curve this final score so that students do not need to have perfect attendance and completion of reading items to receive a perfect score for this TopHat grade item. ***Please note that Top Hat is weighted similarly to other components of the course (like exams), please do not neglect this part of your grade.***

# Homework Assignments (D2l)

You will have several opportunities to use the information you learn in this course to demonstrate how personality science helps us to understand ourselves, others, and how people shape their worlds.

I will assign five brief homework assignments during the semester. These are to be turned in via D2L on the due date(s) in the [course calendar](#_Course_Calendar_1), submitted by Midnight Eastern Standard Time. Please follow all requirements regarding formatting and submission to the correct area on D2L.  You can find all homework instructions in D2L, in the folder titled “Homework Assignments”. That document also details how you will submit and be graded on the homework assignments.

# Research Article Quizzes (d2L)

Reading scientific literature is an important skill. It’s essential to develop a method and to practice reading a scientific research article, just like any other skill. The purpose of these assignments are to break down the task of reading a research article into smaller, step-by-step components, and to provide space for students to practice these skills. We will review in lecture how to read a research article, what things to look for, and then students will complete short quizzes about the content of provided research articles on personality psychology. There will be a total of 11 articles/quizzes, and the lowest score will be dropped.

# Exams (D2l)

There will be 4 exams. Exams are NOT cumulative (although the last exam is given during our assigned final exam period, it is not cumulative). Each exam covers material presented after the prior exam. I will give you a list of the slide decks, chapters, and associated study guides to be included on each exam and will conduct a brief review session in the class meeting prior to each exam.

Exams will be administered in the course D2L site, using the “quiz” function. All exams are “open book”, which means you can use any materials in your possession to answer questions, including your own notes, any material on the D2L course site, any material on TopHat. You may NOT collaborate or coordinate with other students on any exam. Exams will be available for a 24-hour period on the date for which they are scheduled (i.e., midnight to midnight). Exams will be completed remotely, so there is no need for you to attend class on those days. Because D2L is used for exams, you must have access to high-speed internet (such as that available on campus) to complete the exams.

Procedures and policies for proctoring of exams will be at the discretion of the instructor. These arrangements are subject to change in the event of unanticipated circumstances that necessitate a change to how exams are administered and/or proctored. If you have a need for an alternate day/time for any exam, please inform the instructor at least one week prior so specialized access can be set for you in D2L.

**Syllabus Quiz:** The purpose of this quiz is to ensure that you are knowledgeable about the course requirements, and this will help you key in on some important points on the syllabus early in the semester. This is to be submitted in D2L. You should be able to get 100% on this assignment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exam 1 | 2/2/24 |
| Exam 2 | 3/15/24 |
| Exam 3 | 4/10/24 |
| Exam 4 | Available from 4/22/24 to 4/26/24 \*NOT cumulative |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Breakdown of Points |  |
| **Assignments** | **Points** |
| Exams (4 Exams Total) | 120 (30 points each) |
| Homework Assignments (5 Assignments Total) | 50 (total for all 5 assignments) |
| Homework #1 | 4 |
| Homework #2 | 5 |
| Homework #3 | 22 |
| Homework #4 | 4 |
| Homework #5 | 15 |
| Reading (12 Chapters Total) | 60 (5 points for each chapter assignment) |
| In-Class Activities | 50 |
| Research Article Quizzes | 50 (5 points each) |
| Syllabus Quiz | 5 |
| **Total Points Available** | **335** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** | **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** |
| 4.0 | 90% to 100% | 2.0 | 70% to 74.9% |
| 3.5 | 85% to 89.9% | 1.5 | 65% to 69.9% |
| 3.0 | 80% to 84.9% | 1.0 | 60% to 64.9% |
| 2.5 | 75% to 79.9% | 0.0 | Under 60% |

# Course Calendar

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Course Dates** | **Assignments and Projects** |
| Week 1 – Ch. 1 |  |  |
|  | 1/8/24 |  |
|  | 1/10/24 |  |
|  | 1/12/24 | Syllabus Quiz due @ midnight  Research Article Quiz 1 due @ midnight |
| Week 2 – Ch. 2 |  |  |
|  | 1/15/24 **– NO CLASS (University Closed)** |  |
|  | 1/17/24 | Ch. 1 & 2 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 1/19/24 | Research Article Quiz 2 due @ midnight |
| Week 3 – Ch. 3 |  |  |
|  | 1/22/24 | Ch. 3 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 1/24/24 | Homework #1 due @ midnight |
|  | 1/26/24 | Research Article Quiz 3 due @ midnight |
| Week 4 -Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 1/29/24 |  |
|  | 1/31/24 – Exam Review Day |  |
|  | 2/2/24 – Exam #1 |  |
| Week 5 - Ch. 4 |  |  |
|  | 2/5/24 | Ch. 4 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 2/7/24 | Homework #2 due @ midnight |
|  | 2/9/24 | Research Article Quiz 4 due @ midnight |
| Week 6 – Ch. 5 |  |  |
|  | 2/12/24 | Ch. 5 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 2/14/24 |  |
|  | **2/16/24 – No In-Person Class, Lecture posted to D2L** | Research Article Quiz 5 due @ midnight |
| Week 7 – Ch. 6 |  |  |
|  | **2/19/24 – No In-Person Class, Lecture posted on D2L** | Ch. 6 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 2/21/24 | Homework #3 due @ midnight |
|  | 2/23/24 | Research Article Quiz 6 due @ midnight |
| Spring Break | 2/26 to 3/1 |  |
| Week 8 – Ch. 7 |  |  |
|  | 3/4/24 | Ch. 7 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 3/6/24 |  |
|  | 3/8/24 | Research Article Quiz 7 due @ midnight |
| Week 9 -Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 3/11/24 |  |
|  | 3/13/24 – Exam Review Day |  |
|  | 3/15/24 – Exam #2 |  |
| Week 10 - Ch. 8 |  |  |
|  | 3/18/24 | Ch. 8 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 3/20/24 | Homework #4 due @ midnight |
|  | 3/22/24 | Research Article Quiz 8 due @ midnight |
| Week 11 – Ch. 9 |  |  |
|  | 3/25/24 | Ch. 9 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 3/27/24 |  |
|  | 3/29/24 | Research Article Quiz 9 due @ midnight |
| Week 12 - Ch. 10 |  |  |
|  | 4/1/24 | Ch. 10 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 4/3/24 |  |
|  | 4/5/24 | Research Article Quiz 10 due @ midnight |
| Week 13 – Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 4/8/24 – Exam Review Day | Homework #5 Due @ midnight |
|  | 4/10/24 – Exam #3 |  |
|  | 4/12/24 |  |
| Week 14 - Ch. 11 |  |  |
|  | 4/15/24 | Ch. 11 and Ch. 12 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 4/17/24 |  |
|  | 4/19/24 | Research Article Quiz 11 due @ midnight |
| **FINALS WEEK** | **4/22 to 4/26** | **Exam #4 \*NOT cumulative** |

Any alterations to course topics, reading, or assignments/due dates will be changed in the syllabus/corresponding material and announced via D2L.

# Top Hat PRO

We will be using Top Hat Pro for class participation and quizzes. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

Subscriptions to purchase: Top Hat Pro

For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enroll in our Top Hat Pro course, please refer to one of the following resources:

1) The invitation sent to your school email address OR

2) Consult Top Hat's [-](https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Getting-Started-with-Top-Hat) N OR

3) Review this [Video on How to Sign up for Top Hat](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNmVJWGu4iA)

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to your account to be taken directly to our course. If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or

● Go to https://app.tophat.com/register/student

● Click "Search by school" and input the name of our school

● Search for our course with the following join code:  326057

If a paid subscription is required, it will be listed at checkout when you enroll in our Top Hat Pro course.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

# Course Policies

**Email:**

* In the subject of your email, please always include PSY 236.
* Please direct emails to the UA, and they will loop me in if required. I love to meet with and chat with students, however, with multiple large lecture-based classes, it’s important to delegate some emails!
* Emails should be professional, concise, and provide appropriate context; this is an important skill to practice with all emails directed to professors/in your professional life. For tips on emailing a professor see <https://academicpositions.com/career-advice/how-to-email-a-professor>.
* Expect 48-72 hours for a response, then send a reminder email.

**Policies Regarding Attendance:**

It will be difficult to do well in this course if you do not regularly attend class and review course materials.

**Policies Regarding Missed or Late Quizzes, Exams, and Assignments:**

Granting of make-up exams is solely at the discretion of the instructor. Please reach out ASAP if you have issues so that alternative plans can be explored.

Every assignment submitted via D2L or Top Hat is due at midnight of the due date. However, to provide flexibility, I will allow assignments to be submitted without penalty for up to 2 weeks after the due date. The D2L dropbox for each assignment will close 2 weeks after the due date listed in the syllabus. After that point, assignments submitted past that date will be assessed a 25% late fee, meaning the highest grade possible will be 75%. Please note that the 2-week grace period does not apply to assignments due in the last 2 weeks of class.

**In order to complete late reading assignments for top hat you MUST email the TA to have those assignments reopened. The same goes for D2L homework assignments. Please email the TA to grant you access if needed.**

“Late” in-class activity points will not be provided. The final top hat grade is curved to incorporate missed class periods. However, if you are having technological issues but are in-class participating, you can email the UA immediately to receive credit.

**Policies Regarding Grading:**

If you believe there is an error or issue with your grade on any assignment in this course, you must raise this issue with the instructor within 7 days of the date on which you received the grade (defined as the date on which the grade is posted on D2L). After that point, I will not consider any requests for grade changes.

**Policies Regarding Recording or Dissemination of Course Material:**

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials (slides, lectures, homework assignments, rubrics, quizzes, and lectures) presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

1. Students may not post the recordings or any other course materials online or distribute them via any emails to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor, and if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.

2. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

### **Applicable policies, syllabus statements, and resources for students:**

* [Spartan Code of Honor](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/spartan-code-of-honor-academic-pledge)
* [Mental Health](https://caps.msu.edu/faculty-staff/Syllabus-Language.html)
* [Religious Observance Policy](https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/ReligiousPolicy.aspx)
* [Student Athletes](https://ombud.msu.edu/classroom-policies/#absence-athletics)

### **Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty**

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the [insert name of unit offering course] adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the [all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](https://ombud.msu.edu/academic-integrity/). See [Spartan Life Online](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/) (splife.studentlife.msu.edu) and/or the [MSU Web site](http://www.msu.edu/) (msu.edu) for more.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](https://ombud.msu.edu/academic-integrity/).)

### **Limits to Confidentiality**

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

* Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
* Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
* Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

### **Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

[From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/get-started/faculty-departmental-resources/model-statements-disability-inclusion) (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](https://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

### **Disruptive Behavior**

Article 2.III.B.4 of [Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) states: "No student shall . . . obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the functions, services, or directives of the University, its offices, or its employees (e.g., classes, social, cultural, and athletic events, computing services, registration, housing and food services, governance meetings, and hearings).” Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

**AI Tools**

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Michigan State University’s policy on academic integrity, the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge and Student Rights and Responsibilities, since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in a zero on the assignment.

### **Technical Assistance**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:

* Visit the [Distance Learning Services Support Site](https://www.lib.msu.edu/dls/) (lib.msu.edu/dls)
* Visit the [Desire2Learn Help Site](http://help.d2l.msu.edu/) (help.d2l.msu.edu)
* Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345
* To learn D2L use, login with your MSU NetID and password at [d2l.msu.edu](https://d2l.msu.edu/d2l/home), select “Self Registration” from the menu bar, register for and complete the course named “Students - Getting Started with D2L.” Also be aware of the “Help” option on the D2L Home page menu.

### Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)

* To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642

Or TTY: (517) 355-1293

* [Web site for RCPD](http://MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu): MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu