PSY 236: Personality Psychology

Fall 2024 Semester

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday, from *1:50PM to 2:40PM***

Location: Life Science A133

## Instructor: William C. Scott

Email: [scottwi6@msu.edu](mailto:doneremi@msu.edu)

## OFFICE HOURS: Virtually on Wednesdays 10am-11am or by appointment. Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5836898786>

## UA: Name: Isabella Riopelle

Email: riopel18@msu.edu

# 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. TopHat 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.

# Assigned Readings (TOP HAT)

**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 will be the chapters in the *Personality* text on TopHat, and 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 (for a total of 60 points for reading assignments) and has 2 attempts.

# 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 10 articles/quizzes throughout the semester and these must be completed according to due dates listed on the [course calendar](#_Course_Calendar).

# PERSONALITY SELF-REPORT ASSIGNMENT (d2L)

This assignment is intended to allow students to understand and identify their own personality traits using a free online personality test that is based on the Big Five personality model. The assignment consists of taking the online test and then writing a short paper describing the results, and especially how accurate the test was for describing student’s personalities. Instructions for the written assignment and the link to the online test will be available on D2L and this assignment will be due on November 1st.

# 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 and any material on the D2L course. 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). You will have one hour to complete the exam after beginning it online. 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exam 1 | 9/20/24 |
| Exam 2 | 10/25/24 |
| Exam 3 | 11/20/24 |
| Exam 4 | Available during finals week from 12/9/24 to 12/13/24 \*NOT cumulative |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Breakdown of Points |  |
| **Assignments** | **Points** |
| Exams (4 Exams Total) | 120 (30 points each) |
| Reading (12 Chapters Total) | 60 (5 points for each chapter assignment) |
| Research Article Quizzes (10 total)  Personality Self-Report Assignment | 50 (5 points each)  50 points |
| **Total Points Available** | **280** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** | **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** |
| 4.0 | 90% to 100% | 2.0 | 70% to 74.99% |
| 3.5 | 85% to 89.99% | 1.5 | 65% to 69.99% |
| 3.0 | 80% to 84.99% | 1.0 | 60% to 64.99% |
| 2.5 | 75% to 79.99% | 0.0 | Under 60% |

# Course Calendar

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Course Dates** | **Assignments and Projects** |
| Week 1 – Ch. 1 |  |  |
|  | 8/26/24 |  |
|  | 8/28/24 |  |
|  | 8/30/24 | Research Article Quiz 1 due @ midnight |
| Week 2 – Ch. 2 |  |  |
|  | 9/2/24 **– NO CLASS (Labor Day)** |  |
|  | 9/4/24 | Ch. 1 & 2 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 9/6/24 | Research Article Quiz 2 due @ midnight |
| Week 3 – Ch. 3 |  |  |
|  | 9/9/24 | Ch. 3 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 9/11/24 |  |
|  | 9/13/24 | Research Article Quiz 3 due @ midnight |
| Week 4 -Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 9/16/24 |  |
|  | 9/18/24 – Exam Review Day |  |
|  | 9/20/24 – Exam #1 |  |
| Week 5 - Ch. 4 |  |  |
|  | 9/23/24 | Ch. 4 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 9/25/24 |  |
|  | 9/27/24 | Research Article Quiz 4 due @ midnight |
| Week 6 – Ch. 5 |  |  |
|  | 9/30/24 | Ch. 5 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 10/2/24 |  |
|  | 10/4/24 | Research Article Quiz 5 due @ midnight |
| Week 7 – Ch. 6 |  |  |
|  | 10/7/24 | Ch. 6 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 10/9/24 |  |
|  | 10/11/24 | Research Article Quiz 6 due @ midnight |
| Week 8 – Ch. 7 |  |  |
|  | 10/14/24 | Ch. 7 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 10/16/24 |  |
|  | 10/18/24 | Research Article Quiz 7 due @ midnight |
| Week 9 -Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 10/21/24 **NO CLASS- Fall Break** |  |
|  | 10/23/24 – Exam Review Day |  |
|  | 10/25/24 – Exam #2 |  |
| Week 10 - Ch. 8 |  |  |
|  | 10/28/24 | Ch. 8 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 10/30/24 |  |
|  | 11/1/24 | Research Article Quiz 8 due @ midnight  **Personality Self-Report Assignment due @ midnight** |
| Week 11 – Ch. 9 |  |  |
|  | 11/4/24 | Ch. 9 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 11/6/24 |  |
|  | 11/8/24 | Research Article Quiz 9 due @ midnight |
| Week 12 - Ch. 10 |  |  |
|  | 11/11/24 | Ch. 10 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 11/13/24 |  |
|  | 11/15/24 | Research Article Quiz 10 due @ midnight |
| Week 13 – Exam Week |  |  |
|  | 11/18/24 – Exam Review Day |  |
|  | 11/20/24 – Exam #3 |  |
|  | 11/22/24 |  |
| Week 14 – NO CLASS | 11/25, 11/27, 11/29: **NO CLASS** (**Thanksgiving)** |  |
| Week 15 - Ch. 11 & 12 |  |  |
|  | 12/2/24 |  |
|  | 12/4/24 | Ch. 11 and Ch. 12 reading due @ midnight |
|  | 12/6/24 |  |
| **FINALS WEEK** | **12/9 to 12/13** | **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

We will be using Top Hat ([https://tophat.com](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/tophat.com/__;!!HXCxUKc!za1mQ4tQlxxbj71xWfEjyxSrq7_1svxtnsm-bRxi7DwOLwzW9k_tAi2wki3JHdZtOW_sjXc_jIdAKFzYqyaAIJSUJqI$)) for both the textbook and class participation. Top Hat is an educational platform that integrates interactive features into learning materials, enhancing class engagement and comprehension.

For instructions on how to download the Top Hat app, please refer to our Student's Getting Started Guide online.

**Creating your Top Hat Account / Logging In:**

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to [https://app.tophat.com/e/542877](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/app.tophat.com/e/542877__;!!HXCxUKc!za1mQ4tQlxxbj71xWfEjyxSrq7_1svxtnsm-bRxi7DwOLwzW9k_tAi2wki3JHdZtOW_sjXc_jIdAKFzYqyaA-r0qDDM$) 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](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/app.tophat.com/register/student__;!!HXCxUKc!za1mQ4tQlxxbj71xWfEjyxSrq7_1svxtnsm-bRxi7DwOLwzW9k_tAi2wki3JHdZtOW_sjXc_jIdAKFzYqyaABfd-GeI$)
* Click "Search by the school" and input the name of our school
* Search for our course with the following Join Code: **542877**

Important! You cannot create a Top Hat account using the mobile application, please first sign-up (using your school issued email address) and enroll into your course using a web browser.

**Required Course Materials:**

You will be prompted to purchase the required course materials upon first enrolling into the course on a web browser or you will be required to purchase a Top Hat Access Key from our campus bookstore.

The required course materials are:

Personality by Emily Durbin (eTextbook)

Price: $69.20

ISBN: 9781774120125

Once you have enrolled into the course and purchased/redeemed an access code for the required course materials, you may use the Top Hat mobile app to access your course.

Some helpful Top Hat terms to know:

* Join Code / JC: The unique 6 digit code specific to your course. (Top Hat Support will ask for this when you reach out! Our code again is 542877)
* Top Hat Access Key**:** A unique code issued by Top Hat to redeem on your account for a specific product such as an eTextbook (purchased through an external vendor only). Purchases made directly on Top Hat will be applied to your account. No codes or access keys will be provided.
* Bookstore Redemption Code**:** Purchased through your campus bookstore and is valid for a Top Hat product such as an eTextbook, which must first be exchanged for a Top Hat Access Key (typically completed on the campus bookstore website) before redeeming it on the Top Hat course check-out page.

# Course Policies

**Email:**

* In the subject of your email, please always include **PSY 236**.
* Please double check the syllabus prior to sending an email to see whether your question(s) may already be answered by the syllabus.
* 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 (excluding holidays and weekends) 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 or review the uploaded notes and slides. That being said, I do not plan to take attendance or incorporate attendance into your final grade. Attendance is thus encouraged but is at the student’s discretion.

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

The 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. The policy for grief-related absences is shown here: <https://reg.msu.edu/roinfo/notices/griefabsence.aspx>

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 1 week 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 1-week grace period does NOT apply to assignments due in the last 2 weeks of class OR for the self-report assignment.

**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 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)

### **Commitment 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 PSY 236 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/).

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. 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 am a mandatory reporter of 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 or before 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 for exams, assignments, or any other graded component of 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

### **Accommodation Assistance**

### 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