

**PPE 4700: Experimental Studies in Personality  
Spring 2008**

**Instructor**

Dr. Todd K. Shackelford  
Office: FAU-Davie, ES 275  
Office hours: Tues. 9am-1pm, Fri 10am-12pm & by appt.  
E-mail: [tshackel@fau.edu](mailto:tshackel@fau.edu); Office phone: 954-236-1179  
Web: [www.ToddKShackelford.com](http://www.ToddKShackelford.com)

**Course Meeting Time and Location**

Wednesday, 1-3:50pm, ES \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Description**

This course surveys the major perspectives within the field of personality psychology, including historical and long-standing perspectives and more recently formulated perspectives. The course draws links between these larger perspectives and conduct in the everyday lives of persons by covering topics such as sex, love, mating, aggression, sensation seeking, motivation, conflict, status, prestige, creativity, and manipulation.

**Required Texts**

1. Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D.M. (2008). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). New York: McGraw Hill.
2. Dawkins, R. (1996). *River out of Eden: A Darwinian view of life*. New York: HarperCollins.
3. Harris, J. R. (2007). *No two alike: Human nature and individual differences*. New York: W.W. Norton.

**Group Presentation**

Groups of 3-4 students will lead a review and discussion of material presented in one of the weekly assigned readings.

**Weekly Discussion Questions**

Students are expected to read the assigned material before arriving to class on the day the material is to be discussed. Students will hand in at the end of each class 4-5 typed discussion questions about the reading assigned for that class prepared prior to arriving to class.

**Brief Reaction Papers**

Several times during the semester, I will require students to bring to the following class reactions to material presented and discussed during class. These brief reaction papers will be due at the beginning of the next class, and should be about two, double-spaced typed pages.

**Take-Home Exam**

There will be one take-home exam. I will distribute the exam on the date indicated below, and you will have one week to complete the exam. Your completed exam will be due at the beginning (first 5 minutes) of the indicated class period. I encourage you to discuss the exam questions with your fellow students, but each of you will be responsible for turning in your own, independently written exam. The exam will consist of short essay questions.

**Grading**

Grades will be assigned according to the following weighted criteria:

Group presentation	25%
Weekly discussion questions	25%
Brief reaction papers	25%
Take-home exam	25%

**Class Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>
Jan. 9	Introduction to course; Discussion sign-up	None
Jan. 16	Darwinian view of life, Part I	Dawkins, chapters 1-3
Jan. 23	Darwinian view of life, Part I	Dawkins, chapters 4-5
Jan. 30	Introduction to personality; Assessment & measurement	Larsen & Buss, chapters 1 & 2
Feb. 6	Evolutionary perspectives; behavioral genetics	Larsen & Buss, chapters 8 & 6
Feb. 13	Physiological approaches; Traits & taxonomies	Larsen & Buss, chapters 7 & 3
Feb. 20	Theoretical & measurements issues in trait psychology; Personality dispositions over time	Larsen & Buss, chapters 4 & 5
Feb. 27	Psychoanalysis: Classic and Current	Larsen & Buss, chapters 9 & 10
March 5	No class (Spring break)	None
March 12	Motives; Cognitive topics	Larsen & Buss, chapters 11 & 12
March 19	Personality & social interaction; Sex, gender, personality	Larsen & Buss, chapters 15 & 16
March 26	Culture; health	Larsen & Buss, chapters 17 & 18
April 2	Personality disorders; Summary & future directions	Larsen & Buss, chapters 19 & 20
April 9	No two alike, part I	Harris, chapters 1-3
April 16	No two alike, part I	Harris, chapters 4-6
April 23	No two alike, part II Take-home exam distributed	Harris, chapters 7-10
April 30	Summary & conclusions Take-home exam due, beginning of class	None