

PSYC 338: Personality Psychology

MW 1 – 5pm
Beck Hall Room 252
Summer 2014

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2pm OR by appointment.

Description

To have personality—a phrase that begs the question, “What is personality?” Is personality what divides us and makes us individuals? Or is it a quality that unites us, a distinctly human feature not found anywhere else in the world? In this course, we’ll explore the meaning of personality from a psychological standpoint. To date, there is no fully defined and agreed upon paradigm in personality. But that is part of the beauty of the discipline: The ability to find a theory/view that is uniquely personal.

Course Goals:

- Understanding of the different perspectives of personality psychology
- Knowledge of key personality theorists and their respective theories
- Familiarity with the diversity of methods used to test theories and assess constructs
- Application of personality theories to one’s own life
- Ability to logically critique the testability, validity, generalizability, and significance of theories

Text

Funder, D.C. (2013). *The Personality Puzzle 6th Ed.* New York, NY: Norton.

Structure

This course will be structured around: reading assignments, discussions, short answer assignments, quizzes and a final paper. You are expected to read all of the assigned material. The success of this course depends on your participation and preparedness for class. **Please take responsibility for your performance.**

Short Answer Assignments: There are 3-5 short answer questions assigned for each chapter.

Quizzes: Periodically throughout the course pop quizzes will be given out in class. These quizzes cannot be made up unless prior arrangements have been made to miss class that day (e.g., you have emailed me and told me you cannot attend).

Final Paper: You are required to write a 10-15 page paper (APA Format, minimum of 10 references) in this course on a topic of your choice that is related to **Personality Psychology**. Topics must be approved by me by June 11. A rough draft (5-7 pages) is due on June 18.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance – 10%

Quizzes – 20%

Short Answer Assignments – 30%

Final Paper – 40% (note: a rough draft is required to pass the course).

Grading and Performance Issues

Questions about grades: If you wish to discuss your grade or performance in the course, please set up a time to meet with me before the last two weeks of class. After that point it is very unlikely that you can do anything to address your grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism in all forms—from print, internet, or friends: Don't do it. Cheating: Don't do it. Under no circumstances will I tolerate cheating on any of the assignments. Here is the University's official policy on cheating:
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Course Outline

Week 1:

5/28 – The Study of the Person (Ch 1); Clues to Personality: The Basic Sources of Data (Ch 2).

Week 2:

6/2 – Personality Psychology as Science: Research Methods (Ch 3).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 1 and 2

6/4 – Personality Traits, Situations, and Behavior (Ch 4); Personality Assessment I: Personality Testing and its Consequences (Ch 5).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapter 3

Week 3:

6/9 – Personality Assessment II: Personality Judgment in Daily Life (Ch 6); Using Personality Traits to Understand Behavior (Ch 7).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 4 and 5.

6/11 – The Anatomy and Physiology of Personality (Ch 8); The Inheritance of Personality: Behavioral Genetics and Evolutionary Theory (Ch 9).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 6 and 7.

Week 4:

6/16 – Basics of Psychoanalysis (Ch 10); The Workings of the Unconscious Mind (Ch 11); Psychoanalysis after Freud: Neo-Freudians, Object-Relations, and Current Research (Ch 12).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 8 and 9.

6/18 – Experience, Existence, and the Meaning of Life¹: Humanistic and Positive Psychology (Ch 13); Cultural Variation in Experience, Behavior, and Personality (Ch 14).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

Week 5:

6/23 – Learning to Be a Person: Behaviorism and Social Learning Theories (Ch 15); Personality Processes: Perception, Thought, Motivation, and Emotion (Ch 16).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 13 and 14.

6/25 – What You Know About You: The Self (Ch 17); Disorders of Personality (Ch 18).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 14 and 15.

Week 6:

6/30 – Conclusion: Looking Back and Looking Ahead (Ch 19).

Assignment Due: Short Answer for Chapters 17 and 18.

*****FINAL PAPERS DUE JULY 2 BY 5:00 PM*****

¹ 42.