

PSYC 338: Personality Psychology

TTH 1 – 5pm
Tillett Hall Room 264
Summer 2015

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1130am-1230pm OR by appointment.

Description

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.**

Quizzes: Periodically throughout the course pop quizzes will be administered 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).

Exams: There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. The final exam is cumulative. You will have a period of 2 hours and 30 minutes to complete each exam.

Final Paper: A 12-15 page paper (APA Format, minimum of 8 peer-reviewed references) on a topic of your choice that is related to **Personality Psychology** is required. Topics must be submitted in the form of a written proposal (1-2 pages) and approved by me no later than July 23rd.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance – 20%

Quizzes – 20%

Midterm Exam – 15%

Final Exam – 20%

Final Paper – 25% (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:

7/7 – The Study of the Person (Ch 1); Clues to Personality: The Basic Sources of Data (Ch 2)

7/9 – Personality Psychology as Science: Research Methods (Ch 3)

Week 2:

7/14 – Personality Psychology as Science: Research Methods (Ch 3); Personality Traits, Situations, and Behavior (Ch 4)

7/16 – Personality Assessment I: Personality Testing and its Consequences (Ch 5); Personality Assessment II: Personality Judgment in Daily Life (Ch 6)

Week 3:

7/21 – Using Personality Traits to Understand Behavior (Ch 7); The Anatomy and Physiology of Personality (Ch 8); The Inheritance of Personality: Behavioral Genetics and Evolutionary Theory (Ch 9).

7/23 – **MIDTERM EXAM (1pm to 230pm)**

Week 4:

7/28 – 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).

7/30 – Experience, Existence, and the Meaning of Life¹: Humanistic and Positive Psychology (Ch 13); Cultural Variation in Experience, Behavior, and Personality (Ch 14).

Week 5:

8/4 – Learning to Be a Person: Behaviorism and Social Learning Theories (Ch 15); Personality Processes: Perception, Thought, Motivation, and Emotion (Ch 16).

8/6 – What You Know About You: The Self (Ch 17); Disorders of Personality (Ch 18).

Week 6:

8/11 – **FINAL EXAM (1pm to 230pm)**

*****FINAL PAPERS DUE AUGUST 11 BY 11:59 PM*****

¹ 42.