

Rutgers University
Psychology 338: Personality Psychology
Spring 2016

Instructor: Keiko Taga Brynildsen, Ph.D.
Class time: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:40-3:00 p.m.
Class location: Busch Campus – Allison Road Classroom #103
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:00 and by appointment
Office location: Tillett Hall #329
Email: keikob@rutgers.edu
Course web page: Sakai (sakai.rutgers.edu/portal)

Teaching Assistant: Lina Saud
Email: lhs43@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00
Office location: Tillett Hall #629

Course description:

This course addresses major personality systems. Personality structure, dynamics, development, and assessment.

Course objectives:

The objectives of this course are to develop a basic understanding of the significant theories, concepts, and issues in the field of personality psychology including personality assessment, trait theories, biological underpinnings of personality, the self, psychodynamic approaches, motivation, learning, and applications of personality psychology to the real world (e.g., work, relationships, health).

Learning goals:

This course also satisfies the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

- Students will know the leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Students will apply psychological concepts and content to become engaged citizens.
- Students will use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to behavior and mental processes.

Required text:

Twenge, J. M., & Campbell, W. K. (2017). *Personality psychology: Understanding yourself and others*. Boston: Pearson.

Any form of the textbook is fine:

- REVEL (Access Card: ISBN-13: 9780133938258)
 - * The Access Card gives access to an electronic version of the textbook, and subscribers can also purchase a hard copy for an additional charge.

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change if adjustments become necessary during the semester.

- Adobe Reader (ISBN-13: 9780133973891)
- A la carte (hard copy) (ISBN-13: 9780134465609)

Required equipment:

Regular access to a computer with Internet and Word, #2 pencil for all exams.

General course requirements:

1. **Sakai.** It is expected that all students will regularly access Sakai for course announcements and materials. Please also ensure that you check your Rutgers email regularly.
2. **Attendance:** Attending class is essential to the learning process. Regular class attendance is expected. Further, some exam questions will be drawn from material presented in the lecture that is not repeated in the textbook; thus, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. *If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missed information from a classmate* (my lecture notes will not be provided to students).
3. **Reading assignments:** Reading assignments are given for each topic from the textbook.
4. **Exams:** Three midterm exams and one final exam will be given. Each exam will be based on material presented both in lecture and in the assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative, with an emphasis on a basic understanding of the material from the first 3/4 of the course and specific understanding of the material from the last 1/4 of the course. All exams will be multiple-choice. You must provide your 9-digit RUID number on all exams; you should memorize the number and/or carry your ID card with you at all times.
5. **Personality assessment responses:** You are asked to complete 2 personality assessments and write a short (~1 paragraph) response to each assessment. You must submit a response (on Sakai) by 2 of the 3 due dates throughout the semester (i.e., you may choose which assessments you'd like to complete and must submit 2 responses during the semester). The assessments that you may complete for each due date will be available on Sakai. Responses will be graded by the following criteria: unsatisfactory = 0; completed but not much thought was given = 1; satisfactory and demonstrates thought = 2. You may only be graded on 2 responses; please do not submit a 3rd response (your grade on a prior response will not be replaced by a grade on a 3rd response).

Grading:

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1:	18%
Exam 2:	22%
Exam 3:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Personality assessment responses	5%
TOTAL	100%

Final grades will be determined by the following (standard Rutgers grading scale):

89.5% and above	A
84.5-89.49%	B+

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79.5-84.49%	B
74.5-79.49%	C+
69.5-74.49%	C
59.5-69.49%	D
below 59.5%	F

Make-up policy:

No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made prior to the day of the exam/assignment due date or written proof of unavoidable absence is provided (e.g., doctor's note). Make-up exams may be in essay format. If exceptional circumstances prevent you from taking an exam (e.g., car accident), it is important that you contact the instructor within 24 hours. In some circumstances without a documented but still valid reason for your absence on an exam day, you may take a make-up exam with a 10-90% deduction in points (at the instructor's discretion). Missed exams and assignments will otherwise be given score of 0. Late assignments will receive a 1-point deduction per day late unless proof of unavoidable lateness is provided.

Academic integrity:

Rutgers University does not tolerate academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/> for more information on Rutgers University's policies regarding academic dishonesty).

Disability services:

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources (e-mail: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>, phone: (848) 445-6800). Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>. Please bring your letter of accommodation to me as soon as possible, and we will coordinate the accommodations privately.

Final exam:

Our final exam will be held at the time scheduled by the University (TBA; <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>). University regulations set the time and date of all final examinations and specific guidelines that define conflicts: <http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/forms/final-exam-conflict>. If you have a legitimate medical excuse for missing the exam, you will receive a TF in the course until the make-up has been completed.

Student-wellness services:

Just In Case Web App: <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS): (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/
www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to

succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA): (848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Scarlet Listeners: (732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

General policies:

Please be mindful of your fellow students and the instructor by avoiding behavior that interferes with classroom activities or with other students' ability to focus such as texting, surfing the internet, playing computer games, having cell phones ringing, entering the class late, or leaving the class prematurely (if it is necessary that you arrive late or leave early, please sit in the back to minimize disruption). A student responsible for continual disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem.

Exam and assignment scores will be posted on Sakai; it is your responsibility to contact the instructor immediately (within 1 week) if you believe you have not received credit for a submitted exam or assignment.

I consider the course materials used for lecture content and the course web page to be my personal intellectual property or the intellectual property of other parties, as identified. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws. You may not post these materials or derivative materials such as study guides to any web site. You may not record lectures and/or classroom discussion without my express consent.

Course schedule

The following is a **tentative** schedule for this course. Dates may change depending on our **actual** progress in covering the material.

WEEK	DAY	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Part I: Defining Personality and Methods of Assessment				
1	Jan. 18 (W)	Introduction to personality psychology	Ch. 1	
2	Jan. 23 (M)	Assessment and methods	Ch. 2	
	Jan. 25 (W)	Assessment and methods	Ch. 2	
Part II: Approaches to Understanding Personality				
3	Jan. 30 (M)	The Big Five personality traits	Ch. 3	
	Feb. 1 (W)	The Big Five personality traits	Ch. 3	Personality Assessment Response #1 due on Sakai
4	Feb. 6 (M)	Biological underpinnings of personality	Ch. 4	
	Feb. 8 (W)	Biological underpinnings of personality	Ch. 4	
5	Feb. 13 (M)	EXAM 1 (CHS. 1-4)		
	Feb. 15 (W)	Self-concept and self-processes	Ch. 5	
6	Feb. 20 (M)	Psychodynamic approaches	Ch. 6	
	Feb. 22 (W)	Psychodynamic approaches	Ch. 6	
7	Feb. 27 (M)	Motivation	Ch. 7	Personality Assessment Response #2 due on Sakai
	Mar. 1 (W)	Motivation	Ch. 7	
8	Mar. 6 (M)	How learning shapes behavior	Ch. 8	
	Mar. 8 (W)	EXAM 2 (CHS. 5-8)		
9	Mar. 13 (M)	No Class – Spring Recess		
	Mar. 15 (W)	No Class – Spring Recess		
Part III: Applying Personality in the Real World				
10	Mar. 20 (M)	Personality across the lifespan	Ch. 9	
	Mar. 22 (W)	Personality across the lifespan	Ch. 9	
11	Mar. 27 (M)	Gender and personality	Ch. 10	
	Mar. 29 (W)	Gender and personality	Ch. 10	
12	Apr. 3 (M)	Culture and personality	Ch. 11	
	Apr. 5 (W)	Culture and personality	Ch. 11	
13	Apr. 10 (M)	EXAM 3 (CHS. 9-11)		
	Apr. 12 (W)	Personality in the workplace	Ch. 12	

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14	Apr. 17 (M)	Personality and relationships	Ch. 13	Personality Assessment Response #3 due on Sakai
	Apr. 19 (W)	Personality and relationships	Ch. 13	
15	Apr. 24 (M)	Personality and mental health	Ch. 14	
	Apr. 26 (W)	Personality and physical health	Ch. 15	
16	May 1 (M)	Personality and physical health	Ch. 15	
FINAL EXAM (cumulative): Date and Time TBA				

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