

THEORETICAL, EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PERSONALITY

PSYC 501.001 MWF 2:30-3:15pm

Location: Online (synchronous; videos posted after class)

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Harrison (pharrison@unc.edu)

Prerequisite: PSYC101, Gen Ed: SS, 3 Credit Hours

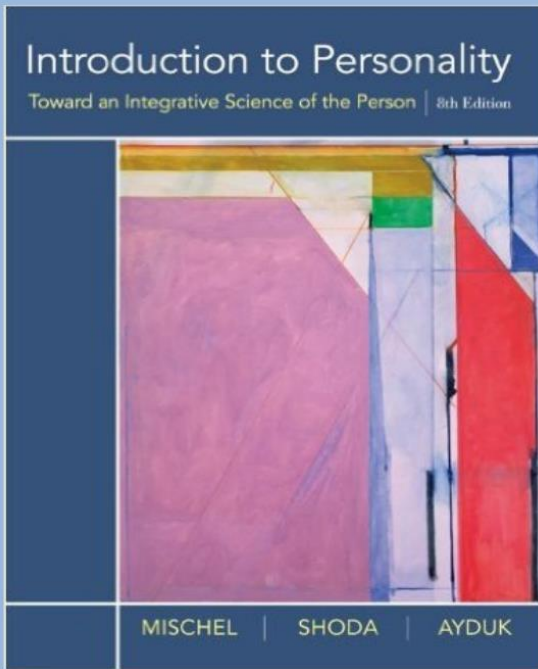
COURSE OVERVIEW

Personality psychology is the study of stable individual differences between people and how these differences account for patterns of thought, emotion and behavior. In this course we will learn about the nature of personality (i.e., personality structure, development, expression, and measurement). The course will consist of online lecture, activities, and discussions. Lectures will focus primarily on the theoretical and empirical basis of personality psychology while the course activities will allow us to explore personality measurement on a deeper level. Class discussions and Try It! activities will allow us to integrate what we have learned about personality theory, research, and measurement and become critical consumers of the science of personality psychology. At the end of the course, we will have a "personality profile" paper, highlighting key, stable characteristics that guide our thoughts, feelings, and actions along with a critical evaluation of the utility of this profile.

COURSE GOALS

- 1 Describe the different approaches (theories) to personality psychology**
- 2 Recognize the similarities and differences between the approaches to understanding personality**
- 3 Critically evaluate the multitude of ways used to measure personality**
- 4 Apply our knowledge of theory and measurement by creating a personality profile**

**DESCRIBE
EXPLAIN
COMPARE
CONTRAST
DISCUSS
ANALYSE
EVALUATE
JUSTIFY**



COURSE READINGS

Daily readings (empirical articles) will be provided, free of charge, on Sakai. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you keep up with the reading.

I also RECOMMEND that you read Introduction to Personality: Toward an Integrative Science of the Person (8th ed.) by Walter Mischel, Yuichi Shoda, and Ozlem Ayduk (corresponding chapters posted on syllabus schedule)

This text will help us fill in the blanks and aid in our understanding of course material. It will also help us to participate in class discussion and complete activities.

Check Sakai for course material (syllabus, activities, etc.) and announcements.

COURSE EVALUATION



ACTIVITIES

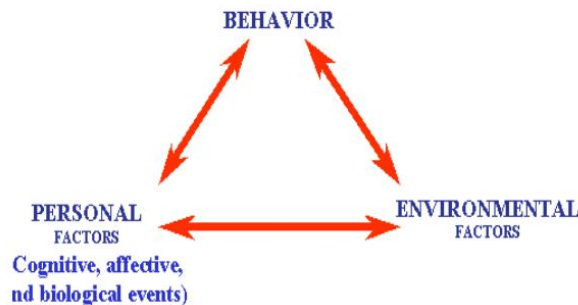
We will complete 10 team-based, low-stakes writing reflections in class

QUIZZES

We will complete five non-cumulative, multiple choice quizzes on Sakai

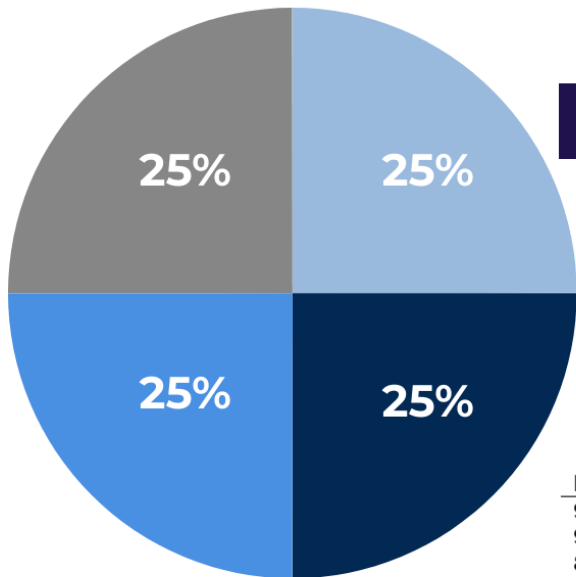
FINAL EXAM

We will complete one cumulative multiple choice exam



COURSE RESEARCH PROJECT (PERSONALITY PORTFOLIO)

We will complete one course APA-style research project that synthesizes our weekly Try It! activities with classic and contemporary research findings.



ACTIVITIES (10) 50 points total

PERSONALITY PORTFOLIO (1) 50 points

QUIZZES (5) 50 points total

FINAL EXAM (1) 50 points

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
93%+	A	80-82.99%	B-	65-69.99%	D+
90-92.99%	A-	77-79.99%	C+	60-64.99%	D
87-89.99%	B+	73-76.99%	C	below 60%	F
83-86.99%	B	70-72.99%	C-		

To ensure that there are no surprises, I strongly recommend that we keep a running tally of grades (your grade = number of points received to date/number of possible points to date). I post your grades on Sakai as soon as they are available.

ACTIVITIES

No class on personality would be complete without a deeper look into personality tests. Those of you who go on to use your degree for business, human resources, non-profits, politics, and many other fields will be faced with a barrage of personality tests. Most of us have taken personality tests without even knowing it. Some are well-established (e.g., the Myers-Briggs) and others are a little less academic (BuzzFeed's "which Game of Thrones character are you?"). Each class, we will take a deeper look at how different personality theorists have had their theories made into personality tests that we see everyday. We will be working in groups and I would encourage everyone to bring your laptop to class every meeting because I will ask you to search for different tests online and write up a brief summary (one page) of your groups' thoughts and answers to the questions I pose. More details will follow and group work on these activities is encouraged. Activities will be worth five points each (50 points total).

PERSONALITY PROFILE

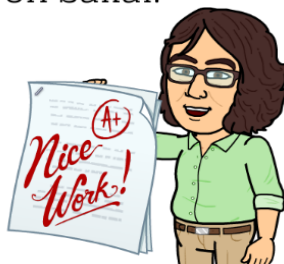
By the end of the term, we will aggregate our weekly TRY IT! Activities into one document, formatted in APA-style. In addition to providing you with a single "personality profile", you will be asked to incorporate course readings and critically evaluate the science of personality psychology more generally. This final paper will be worth 50 points. Details will be posted in Sakai.

QUIZZES

There will be five non-cumulative quizzes worth 10 points each (50 points total). Quizzes will be a chance to test ourselves on the content material covered in each unit. The quizzes will be multiple choice and administered on Sakai in class.

FINAL EXAM

There will be one cumulative final exam worth 50 points. The final exam will be multiple choice and completed on Sakai.



COURSE POLICIES

STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

It is personally important me that ALL students are able to succeed in this course regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, age, ability, income, religion, background, etc. First and foremost, I require all my students to respect every person in our class. If you ever feel that your right to learn and participate in this course has been violated by me or any of your peers, please do not hesitate contact us.

As your instructor, I affirm my commitment to:

- respect the dignity and essential worth of all individuals
- promote a culture of respect throughout the university community
- reject bigotry, discrimination, violence, or intimidation of any kind
- practice personal and academic integrity and expect it from others
- promote the diversity of opinion, ideas, and backgrounds that is the lifeblood of the university

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICE

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me. The Accessibility Resources and Service (CB#7214 SASB – North, Suite 2126) will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations. You can contact them at: 919-962-8300 or accessibility@unc.edu.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

TITLE IX RESOURCES

Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Please contact the Director of Title IX Compliance (Adrienne Allison - Adrienne.allison@unc.edu), Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (reportandresponse@unc.edu), Counseling and Psychological Services (confidential), or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators (gvsc@unc.edu; confidential) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at safe.unc.edu.

HONOR CODE

By taking this class, you agree to adhere to UNC's Honor Code. If you have any questions about this honor code, please refer to: <http://advising.unc.edu/for-faculty/academic-policies-and-procedures/unc-honor-code/>. Please do not cheat. University policy dictates that I must report every instance of academic dishonesty, no matter how small, to the Honor Court.

LET'S TALK

I truly am invested in your success. I am really here for one reason - to help you learn the course material. My job (and my joy) is to help you learn the course material. If you find yourself struggling with the material, let me know! If you are doing really well, let me know! If you have questions about careers in psychology or graduate school, let me know! You can reach me by email (pharrison@unc.edu) or by phone (919) 843-7000. You can also stop by virtual office hours. If my office hour schedule does not work for you, simply email me and we can set up another time to talk.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

MORE ABOUT ME...

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pharrison@unc.edu Office Hours:
Preferred pronouns: he/him/his



UNC-Chapel Hill
safe zone

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic(s)	Readings	Important Things to Do (Checklist)
Week 1		COURSE INTRODUCTION		
W	20-Jan	Course Introduction	Syllabus; Chapters 1-2	
F	22-Jan	Research Methods in Personality		Question Writing Activity
Week 2		TRAIT APPROACHES		
M	25-Jan	Trait Approach to Personality	Chapter 3	Try It! 1: Myers-Briggs
W	27-Jan	Trait Approach to Personality		
F	29-Jan	Trait Approach to Personality		
Week 3		TRAIT APPROACHES		
M	1-Feb	Trait Approach to Personality	McCrae & Costa (1987)	Try It! 2 Big Five
W	3-Feb	Trait Approach to Personality		
F	5-Feb	Trait Approach to Personality		Quiz 1
Week 4		BIOLOGICAL APPROACHES		
M	8-Feb	Biological Approaches to Personality	Chapters 5-6	Try It! 3 BIS/BAS
W	10-Feb	Biological Approaches to Personality		
F	12-Feb	Biological Approaches to Personality		
Week 5		BIOLOGICAL APPROACHES		
M	15-Feb	No Class! Wellness Day	Watson (1913)	Try It! 4 Attraction
W	17-Feb	Biological Approaches to Personality		
F	19-Feb	Biological Approaches to Personality		
Week 6		PSYCHODYNAMIC APPROACHES		
M	22-Feb	Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	Chapter 7	Try It! 5 Dream Analysis
W	24-Feb	Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality		
F	26-Feb	Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality		Quiz 2

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 7	PSYCHODYNAMIC APPROACHES Chapter 8-9	Try It! 6 IAT
M	1-Mar Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	
W	3-Mar Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	
F	5-Mar Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	
Week 8	PSYCHODYNAMIC APPROACHES Dijksterhuis (2004)	Try It! 7 Attachment
M	8-Mar Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	
W	10-Mar Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality	Quiz 3
F	12-Mar No Class! Wellness Day	
Week 9	BEHAVIORAL APPROACHES Chapter 10	Try It! 8 Superstitions
M	15-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
W	17-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
F	19-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
Week 10	BEHAVIORAL APPROACHES Watson (1913)	
M	22-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
W	24-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
F	26-Mar Behavioral Approaches to Personality	
Week 11	HUMANISTIC APPROACHES Chapter 12	Try It! 9 Self-Actualization
M	29-Mar Humanistic Approaches to Personality	
W	31-Mar Humanistic Approaches to Personality	Quiz 4
F	2-Apr No class!	
Week 12	HUMANISTIC APPROACHES Greenberg et al. (1997)	
M	5-Apr No Class! Wellness Day	
W	7-Apr Humanistic Approaches to Personality	
F	9-Apr Humanistic Approaches to Personality	
Week 13	SOCIAL COGNITIVE APPROACHES Chapter 12	Try It! 10 Looking Glass Self
M	12-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	
W	14-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	
F	16-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	
Week 14	SOCIAL COGNITIVE APPROACHES Fleeson (2004)	
M	19-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	
W	21-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	
F	23-Apr Social Cognitive Approaches to Personality	Quiz 5

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 15 PROJECT WORKSHOP

M 26-Apr Project Workshop
W 28-Apr Project Workshop
F 30-Apr Peer Review

Week 16 FINAL EXAM REVIEW

M 3-May Final Exam Preparation
W 5-May Final Exam Kahoot!

Personality Profile Due

ExamWeek

F 14-May

Final Exam Due (5/14; 11:59pm)

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