

Psychology U400: Personality

320 Shillman

M, W, Th, 1:35 – 2:40

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Office Hours: Mon., 2:45-3:30, Wed., 2:45-3:30, or by appointment

Required Text:

Funder, D.C. (2003). *The Personality Puzzle (3rd Edition)*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Course Description:

All of us are personality psychologists to some degree. We observe people daily (perhaps even when they don't want to be observed) and make judgments about whether we would like to be their friend, their former friend, or never to be known by them at all. We also spend time thinking about what makes ourselves and others "tick." Why are we the way we are? That's a question we all confront now and then, and a question that personality psychologists struggle with. This course will introduce you to a variety of ways in which psychologists try to understand what people are all about. We will talk about methods of personality research, and trait, psychodynamic, phenomenological, and cognitive/behavioral approaches to understanding personality.

By the end of this course it is my hope that you will be sufficiently familiar with the major theories of personality that (a) you will begin to construct or expand your own opinion about why people act as they do, (b) you will better understand yourself and gain some insight about why you behave as you do around friends, strangers, and loved ones and (c) you gain a feel for the strengths and weaknesses of each theory.

Grading:

There will be 4 short papers, 4 quizzes, and a final exam. The 4 short papers are each worth 5 points, the quizzes are worth 15 points, and final exam is worth 20 points. Exams will be multiple-choice. The final exam will include some questions based on the entire course. Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam, inform me of your situation as soon as possible. In addition, for each unit (e.g., traits, psychoanalysis) you will write a brief 2-3 page, double-spaced paper on a topic related to the unit we are studying. I will give more details in class about these brief papers.

Regular class attendance is suggested as I will often discuss material not in the book, and I will clarify and elaborate on concepts from the assigned readings. I also recommend that you read the assigned chapters before coming to class and that you have a question or two prepared about the reading, and then raise the questions in class.

!!!!!!!!!!Class Participation!!!!!!!!!! Class discussion for some is more painful than a root canal. You feel uncomfortable about it because you fear that you might say something less than Einsteinian. But like I said above, we all are personality psychologists, we act like personality psychologists everyday. You are an expert. So go for it. Share your opinion.

Course Schedule

Week of	Topics	Readings
<i>Sep. 5</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Brief Introduction Real Introduction	Chpt. 1
<i>Sep. 12</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Research Methods	Chpt. 2,3
<i>Sep. 19</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Quiz 1 ; Begin Personality Traits	Chpt. 4

<i>Sep. 26</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Personality Assessment I&II	Chpt. 5-6
<i>Oct. 3</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Traits for Understanding Behavior Due: Brief Report #1 Quiz 2 on Chapters 4-7	Chpt. 7
<i>Oct. 10</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	No Class – Columbus Day Freud and Psychoanalysis Freud, cont.	Chpt. 10,11
<i>Oct. 17</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Freud, continued	Chpt. 12
<i>Oct. 24</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Freud & Friends, cont. Quiz 3 on Chapters 10-12	
<i>Oct. 31</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Phenomenological Approach Due: Brief Report #2 Cross-Cultural	Chpt. 13-14
<i>Nov. 7</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday		
<i>Nov. 14</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Quiz 4 on Chapters 13-14 Due: Brief Report #3 Behaviorism	Chpt. 15
<i>Nov. 21</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Social Learning No Class --Thanksgiving Holiday Break Begins No Class --Thanksgiving	
<i>Nov. 28</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Cognitive Approach	Chpt. 16-17
<i>Dec.5</i> Monday Wednesday Thursday	Due: Brief Report #4 Wrap up Reading Day	Chpt. 18
<i>Dec. 9</i>	<i>Finals Week from Friday Dec. 9 through Friday Dec. 16</i>	