

LAB IN PERSONALITY

Psychology U616

Tuesday/Friday 1:35-3:15

410 Ell, Spring 2006

Professor Randy Colvin

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Personality Lab Webpage: <http://www.psych.neu.edu/labs/ColvinWeb/psyu616/psyu616.html>

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Course Prerequisites:

- Statistics (PSYU320 & PSYU321)
- Personality (PSYU400)

Required Text:

There is no required text, however we will have reading assignments

Course Summary:

This course familiarizes students with the research methodologies that personality psychologists use to study and understand people. Students are guided through the entire research process from the initial step of identifying a research idea to the final step of writing the results for publication. In addition, we look at two specific research methods: One method is the intensive study of a single individual and the other is the multi-data study of a group of people. Both methods contribute to our understanding of why people behave as they do.

By the end of this course I hope you will have (a) mastered the basic strategies required to conduct personality research, (b) enhanced your writing skills, (c) developed some questions about human personality and obtained some, at least, preliminary answers, and (d) most importantly, learned about your own personality and obtained a better sense of who you are and why you do the things you do.

DATE	TOPIC	READING
1. Jan 10, Tu	Course outline and introduction	
2. Jan 13, Fri	“What is Personality Psychology?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personality Questionnaires/• Psychoautobiography	McAdams
3. Jan 17, Tu	Types of Research	Craik

- Personality Questionnaires
 - Literature Review Assignment
4. **Jan 20, Fri** PsychInfo Training
 5. **Jan 24, Tu** Psychological Constructs and Operational Definitions Kidder
 - Personality Questionnaires
 6. **Jan 27, Fri** Computer Lab – Introduction to SAS statistical software
 7. **Jan 31, Tu** Types of Data (B.L.I.S.) Funder
Due: Literature Review
 8. **Feb 3, Fri** Introduction to Block Project Block
 - Plan first research paper
 9. **Feb 7, Tu** Writing APA-style research papers
 - Plan first research paper
 10. **Feb 10, Fri** Computer Lab
 - Analyze Results
 11. **Feb 14, Tu** Understanding Data by using Tables
 12. **Feb 17, Fri** **Student Meetings**
 13. **Feb 21, Tu** **Student Meetings**
 14. **Feb 24, Fri** Statistics Review Horowitz
Due: First Research Paper
 15. **Feb 28, Tu** Ethics Rosnow
 - Plan Second Study
 16. **Mar 3, Fri** Online Ethics Training
 17. **Mar 7, Tu** **Spring Break**
 18. **Mar 10, Fri** **Spring Break**
 19. **Mar 14, Tu** Measurement Issues I – Reliability and Validity Cronbach
 20. **Mar 17, Fri** Analyze Results for Second Study

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| 21. Mar 21, Tu | Measurement Issues II – Test Construction
Due: Psychoautobiography | |
| 22. Mar 24, Fri | Interpret Results, Data Tables | Abelson |
| 23. Mar 28, Tu | Student Meetings | |
| 24. Mar 31, Fri | No Class | |
| 25. Apr 4, Tu | Student Meetings | |
| 26. Apr 7, Fri | Guidelines for Oral Presentations | |
| 27. Apr 11, Tu | Class Presentations | |
| 28. Apr 14, Fri | Review for Exam
Due: Second Paper | |
| 29. Apr 18, Tu | | |
| 30. Apr 21-Apr 28 | Final Exam Week | |

Grading will be based on a psychoautobiography worth 30 points, 1 literature review paper worth 20 points, 2 research reports (1st=35pts., 2rd=45), an exam worth 40 points, summaries of 9 articles worth 27 points, and class participation worth 3 points. The maximum number of points that one can attain is 200. The psychoautobiography is an analysis of one's own personality through the use of personality questionnaires and by recognizing and thinking about previous life-shaping events and future goals. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions based on the material presented in class. Points for class participation will be based on contributions to class discussions, cooperation with one's partner(s), timely completion of class exercises, and the oral presentation. The oral presentation is intended to be a low-stress event. Points will be deducted for late assignments unless you have made previous arrangements with me.

Students are encouraged to work with a partner. Just as professional researchers rely on colleagues for advice and criticism, class partners can be a valuable resource to each other for trying out new ideas, studying together for exams, and conducting research projects. However, each student is responsible for writing his or her own papers.

Departmental Policy on Incomplete (I) Grades:

An "I" grade may be reported by the instructor when a student has failed to complete a major component of a course, such as homework, a quiz or final examination, a term paper, or a laboratory project. Incompletes are not to be used as a means of retaking an entire course. Students can make up an "I" grade by satisfying the requirements of the instructor or, if the instructor is absent, the Chair of the Psychology Department. The final decision on an incomplete grade is up to the instructor. The period for clearing an "I" grade is restricted to one calendar year from the date it is first recorded on the student's permanent record.

Procedure

A student must obtain a triplicate form from the CAS or the Psychology Department on which the precise agreement for clearing the incomplete grade is to be specified. The student must make an appointment with the instructor to obtain his/her permission for the incomplete and to determine exactly what must be done to complete the requirements for the course. The plan will then be set out on the form and signed by the instructor and the student. The student will retain one copy, the instructor will keep a copy, and the third copy will be given to Professor Block, the Head Advisor. Once again, the agreed-upon course work must be completed within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the course was offered. When the course work is completed, the instructor will fill out a change-of-grade form and submit it to the Head Advisor. The Head Advisor will then verify that there is an incomplete contract on file and that the work has been completed within the specified time period. The form will then be filed with the Registrar.

Any request for exceptions to this policy must be submitted in writing to the Chair or the Department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee through the Head Advisor for approval.