

LAB IN PERSONALITY

Psychology U616

Tuesday/Friday 1:35-3:15

235 FR, Spring 2007

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 9, Tu	Course outline and introduction	
2. Jan 12, Fri	“What is Personality Psychology?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires/ • Psychoautobiography 	McAdams
3. Jan 16, Tu	Types of Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires • Literature Review Assignment 	Craik
4. Jan 19, Fri	PsychInfo Training Computer Lab – Introduction to SAS statistical software	
5. Jan 23, Tu	Psychological Constructs and Operational Definitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires 	Kidder
6. Jan 26, Fri	No Class	
7. Jan 29, Tu	Types of Data (B.L.I.S.) Due: Literature Review	Funder
8. Feb 2, Fri	Introduction to Block Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan first research paper 	Block
9. Feb 6, Tu	Writing APA-style research papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan first research paper 	
10. Feb 9, Fri	Computer Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze Results 	
11. Feb 13, Tu	Understanding Data by using Tables	
12. Feb 16, Fri	Student Meetings	
13. Feb 20, Tu	Student Meetings	
14. Feb 23, Fri	Statistics Review Due: First Research Paper	Horowitz
15. Feb 27, Tu	Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Second Study 	Rosnow
16. Mar 2, Fri	Online Ethics Training	

- 17. Mar 6, Tu Spring Break**
- 18. Mar 9, Fri Spring Break**
- 19. Mar 13, Tu Measurement Issues I – Reliability Cronbach**
and Validity
- 20. Mar 16, Fri Analyze Results for Second Study**
- 21. Mar 20, Tu Measurement Issues II – Test Construction**
Due: Psychoautobiography
- 22. Mar 23, Fri Interpret Results, Data Tables Abelson**
- 23. Mar 27, Tu Student Meetings**
- 24. Mar 30, Fri Student Meetings**
- 25. Apr 3, Tu Student Meetings**
- 26. Apr 6, Fri Guidelines for Oral Presentations**
- 27. Apr 10, Tu Class Presentations**
- 28. Apr 13, Fri Review for Exam**
Due: Second Paper
- 29. Apr 17, Tu**
- 30. Apr 20-Apr 27 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., 2nd=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.