

LAB IN PERSONALITY

Psychology U616

Tuesday/Friday 1:35-3:15

203 RY, Spring 2008

Professor Randy Colvin

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Office Hours: Mon., 3:30-4:30, Th., 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

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

Lisa Williams (Teaching Assistant)

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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 8, Tu	Course outline and introduction	
2. Jan 11, Fri	“What is Personality Psychology?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires/ • Psychoautobiography 	McAdams
3. Jan 15, Tu	Types of Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires • Literature Review Assignment 	Craik
4. Jan 18, Fri	PsychInfo Training Computer Lab – Introduction to SAS statistical software	
5. Jan 22, Tu	Psychological Constructs and Operational Definitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Questionnaires 	Kidder
6. Jan 25, Fri	Types of Data (B.L.I.S.)	Funder
7. Jan 29, Tu	Introduction to Block Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan first research paper Due: Literature Review	Block
8. Feb 1, Fri	Computer Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze Results 	
9. Feb 5, Tu	Understanding Data by using Tables Writing	
10. Feb 8, Fri	No Class	
11. Feb 12, Tu	APA-style research papers	
12. Feb 15, Fri	Student Meetings	
13. Feb 19, Tu	Student Meetings	
14. Feb 22, Fri	Statistics Review Due: First Research Paper	Horowitz
15. Feb 26, Tu	Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Second Study 	Rosnow
16. Feb 29, Fri	Online Ethics Training	
17. Mar 4, Tu	Spring Break	

18. Mar 7, Fri	Spring Break	
19. Mar 11, Tu	Measurement Issues I – Reliability and Validity	Cronbach
20. Mar 14, Fri	Analyze Results for Second Study	
21. Mar 18, Tu	Measurement Issues II – Test Construction Due: Psychoautobiography	
22. Mar 21, Fri	Interpret Results, Data Tables	Abelson
23. Mar 25, Tu	Student Meetings	
24. Mar 28, Fri	Student Meetings	
25. Apr 1, Tu	Student Meetings	
26. Apr 4, Fri	Guidelines for Oral Presentations	
27. Apr 8, Tu	Class Presentations	
28. Apr 11, Fri	Review for Exam Due: Second Paper	
29. Apr 15, Tu		
30. Apr 16-Apr 25	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.