SYLLABUS
Psychology 370
Research in Personality
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Office hours:
Wednesday 10 - 12
Teaching Assistant: TBA
Textbook
Grading

Your letter grade in this course will be based on a % called your “Final Course Score” (FCS). In the following slides, you will see how your FCS is calculated.

Right now, let’s see how your FCS relates to your letter grade in the course.

Note how the columns of the table are labelled: “FCS GE” means FCS greater than or equal to. “FCS LT” means FCS less than.

So, if your FCS winds up being 73%, your letter grade would be a C.
If it’s 89%, it would be an A-.
• How is your Final Course Score (FCS) calculated?

• Eighty percent of your Final Course Score will be based on your Examination Performance Score (EPS).
• The remaining twenty percent of your Final Course Score will be based on (1) your Research Projects Score (RPS) (10%) and the other 10% on (2) your Attendance Points (AP).
• Here’s the formula: FCS = 0.8(EPS) + 0.10(RPS) + 0.10(AP)

• Attendance Policy: At the beginning of the course (now) you are given 100 attendance points. For each unexcused absence, you lose ten of these points. So, if a student has 3 unexcused absences, his/her final attendance points (AP) would be 70.
Let’s take a couple of examples.

• Joe: Exam average = 80 (EPS) ; projects score = 70(RPS) ; attendance points = 100 (AP).
  
• For Joe, FCS = .8(80) + .10 (70) + 0.10(100)
  
• FCS = 64 + 7 + 10 = 81
  
• Grade = B-

• Mary: Exam Average = 80; projects score = 70; attendance points = 70;
  
• FCS = 64 + 7 + 7 = 78
  
• Grade = C+
The next group of slides will focus on exams. Following that, we’ll turn to the research projects.
General notes on exam format:

Questions from the textbook will be multiple choice. Questions from lecture will be true/false. Each question will be worth one point.

(Please note: I do not lecture from the textbook. Rather, you should think of the text and lecture as two different sources of information from which you will learn, and on which you will be tested.)

Your score on each exam will be a percentage, calculated as follows:

\[
\% \text{ Score} = \frac{\text{Number Correct}}{\text{Number of Questions on Exam}}
\]

Eg: You get 47 questions correct on a 60 item exam.

Your \% Score = \frac{47}{60} = 78.33\%

The calendar of reading assignments, lecture topics and exam dates is given on the next four slides.
Calculation of Exam Performance Score (EPS)

There will be four exams, and an optional final. If you do not take the optional final, your $EPS$ will be the average of the four exams you took. If you do take the optional final, your $EPS$ will be the average of the best four scores of the five exams you took. Below is an example for two students. Student 1 does not take the Optional Final; Student 2 does.

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<tr>
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<th>Student 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>84</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Exam 4</td>
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<td>Optional Final</td>
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<td>$EPS$</td>
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The average of 78, 85, 80 and 76

The average of 84, 76, 88 and 83.
Here is the calendar for the Spring 2010 Semester. Cells in red show dates for exams.

Exam 1 is Tuesday, March 2
Exam 2 is Thursday March 25
Exam 3 is Tuesday, April 27
Exam 4 is Tuesday, May 18

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Exam 1:

This exam will cover these three chapters from your text:

Chapter 1: What is Personality?
Chapter 2: How is Personality Studied and Assessed?
Chapter 8: Trait and Skill Aspects of Personality

In addition, it will cover lectures on:

1: Introduction
2: Machiavellianism
3: Validation Research
4: Variables
5: Social Value Orientation
Exam 2:

This exam will cover these three chapters from your text:

Chapter 5: Biological Aspects of Personality
Chapter 11: Male/Female Differences
Chapter 6: Behaviorist and Learning Aspects of Personality

In addition it will cover lectures on:

6. Representative Thinking
7. Fundamental Dimensions of Personality and Heritability
8. Heritability continued
9. Heritability continued
10. NonVerbal Facial Cues to Social Value Orientation (Part 1)
10. NonVerbal Facial Cues to Social Value Orientation (Part 2)
Exam 3:

This exam will cover these three chapters from your text:

Chapter 7: Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects of Personality
Chapter 10: Person Situation Interactionist Aspects of Personality
Chapter 13: Culture, Religion and Ethnicity: Processes and Differences

In addition it will cover lectures on:

11. Implicit Personality Theory
12. Physical Attractiveness and Traits Apparent in the Neutral Face
13. Physical Attractiveness and Traits Apparent in the Neutral Face (continued)
14. Biological Bases of Personality
15. Trust and Trustworthiness
16. Trust and Trustworthiness continued
17. Culture and Personality
Exam 4:

This exam will cover these three chapters from your text:

Chapter 3: Psychoanalytic Aspects of Personality
Chapter 4: Neoanalytic and Ego Aspects of Personality: Identity
Chapter 12: Stress, Adjustment, and Health Differences

In addition it will cover lectures on:

18. Prejudice and Discrimination
19. Prejudice, Discrimination and Freud
20. The Authoritarian Syndrome
21. Social Dominance Orientation
Optional Final: Final Exam Period

The optional final will only cover material from the text, specifically:

Chapter 9: Humanistic and Existential Aspects of Personality
Chapter 14: Love and Hate
Chapter 15: Where Will We Find Personality?
Projects

As already stated, 10% of your grade in this course will be based on projects, and there will be one project for each of the four parts of this course. Details for each project will be posted on Sakai. Details for Project 1 have already been posted there.

Due dates for each project are:

Project One: Friday, March 5: Using Udel’s e-journal system
Project Two: Friday, March 26: Paper on the fundamental attribution bias.
Project Three: Judging personality from faces: data collection
Project Four: Write-up of results for Project 3

At the end of the semester, your four project grades will be averaged, and that average will be what we called your Research Project Score (RPS).

You can find detailed instructions for your first project on the Sakai site for this course. Click on the “Assignments” tab.
Course Overview

The course will consist of four parts, each summarized on the following four slides.
Part 1

Measuring and Validating Personality Traits:

In the first part of the course, we'll see how traits are defined, measured, and also how personality researchers attempt to empirically validate the trait concept. You'll see the details later, but for now let's assume that there are such things as personality traits, and that we can measure them. (It looks like there are, and it looks like we can.)

How “important” is personality?

How well we can predict human behavior based on measured personality traits. Or, what is the "effect size" for a personality trait?

You'll see that the effect size is greater than zero, but also that it's quite small.

One of the really important things for you to understand is why we should expect this to be the case.
Part 2

- Personality, Biology and Sex Differences

- Next, we'll take up the topic of "heritability" of personality traits, or the possibility that there may be some genetic basis for trait differences.

- We'll also see what personality researchers have learned about differences between the sexes.
Part 3

- **Personality, Culture and Cognition**

- In the third part of the course, we'll see how theories of cognitive function are used to conceptualize personality, not so much as a collection of different individual traits, but rather as a functioning dynamic system.
- And, we'll consider the relationship between culture and personality.
Part 4

- Psychoanalysis: Its development and contemporary relevance.

- Finally, part four will deal with Sigmund Freud, and his development of classic psychoanalytic theory.

- In addition we'll look at the issue of recovered versus false memories which has generated considerable debate both in psychology and in the court system.
**Statistical concepts.**

The title of this course is Research in Personality, and is intended for majors in psychology.

Accordingly, in addition to being a general overview of the field, it will also emphasize research techniques, and where necessary, statistical concepts that are fundamental in personality research.