

**Psychology 210
Theories of Personality**

Instructor: Julie J. Chen, Ph.D	Email: jchen10@uic.edu
Office: BSB 1056B	Phone: (312) 996 -2231
Office Hrs: TR 11 – 11:30am	
Lecture: TR 2 – 3:15pm, Lecture Center D2	

Teaching Assistants & TA office hours:

TA	Office Hour
Ryan Leach rleach4@uic.edu	T 1 – 2 pm; BSB 1049
Vinoad Nair Das vnaird2@uic.edu	R 1 – 2 pm; BSB 1051
Chyei Vinluan aeroelay.chyei@gmail.com	W 11 – 12 pm; BSB 1049

Overview:

This course is designed to provide a survey of the field of personality, focusing on approaches that are relevant to psychotherapy and well-being. Classical and contemporary theoretical conceptualizations of the person will be the primary focus of the course materials, although some time will also be spent considering the research has been conducted to test these theories.

Required Text:

Friedman H.S. & Schustack, M. W. (2015). Personality - Classic Theories and Modern Research. (6th Edition). Pearson. (Previous edition OK)

Course Goals:

1. To appreciate the sub-disciplines of research that defines personality psychology.
2. To better understand the scientific method, in general, and the empirical research methods employed by personality psychology, in particular.
3. To improve your critical thinking and analytical reasoning abilities within the context of personality

psychology.

4. To improve your ability to communicate personality psychological concepts and theories using the conventions of the field.
5. Finally, to promote insight into both the people around you and yourself.

Course Objectives:

To accomplish these goals, you will:

1. Survey seven distinct areas of research within personality psychology, ranging from the psychoanalytic perspective, to contemporary theories of self-regulation.
2. Analyze and reflect on how the different methodologies that are commonly used in each area of research help to converge on a more complete understanding of the mechanisms involved in a given aspect of personality.
3. Complete a variety of personality inventories and consider your personal results in relation to different population distributions.
4. Reflect on and apply a theory of personality to your own life.

Assessments:

Your final grade will be determined by means of the required examinations, paper and assignments (see below). Your final grade will be derived from your performance as follows:

Four Homework Assignments (3points X 4 = 12 points)

Every Thursday a SHORT paper will be assigned in lecture. You will write about your thoughts and reflections on a question I ask based on the lecture materials of that week. The purpose of the homework is to help you keep up with the lectures and the readings. Usually there is no single correct answer to the question. I expect you to show me that you are learning and thinking.

A total of 4 homework assignments will be given throughout the semester.

Format of the Homework: Double-spaced; half a page minimum (roughly 150 words); Times New Roman font 12; Include your name on the assignment.

Submit all HW Assignments on Blackboard via Assignment. The submission deadline is always by 11:59pm the following Tuesday. NO HARDCOPY is accepted. NO LATE assignment is accepted.

Three exams (40points X3 = 120 points)

The format of the two mid-terms and the final examination is multiple choices. Each exam has 40 questions. Final examination is non-cumulative. Exam questions cover **BOTH** lecture and textbook materials.

Paper (100 points)

One of the goals of psychology is to help people learn more about themselves. In addition to gaining insight into yourself, applying the topics covered in class to your life helps make the course come to life. The best way to do this in a personality class is to use the theories we learn to discuss your own personality and how it has developed. Therefore, you will complete a discussion of your personality and how it can be explained by one or more theories from class. You will pick three aspects of your personality and use a

theory that you learn in this class to discuss each aspect. A total of two different theories should be used (that is, you can use one theory to discuss two aspects and a second theory to discuss the third aspect; or you can use a different theory for each aspect; it's not acceptable to use one theory to discuss all three aspects). The paper should be five to seven pages long (double spaced, excluding the title page and the reference page), have at least three references, and should be in APA style. See a separate document for more detailed instructions.

Total possible points = 12 + 120 + 100 = 232

Grades

Your grade will be assigned according to the following scale.

A 90% or above	C 70 – 79%	F 59% or below
B 80 – 89%	D 60 – 69%	

Final Grade rounding

If your final percentage is only 1% away from the cutoff AND you have perfect HW record, I will round you up.

Makeup exam policy

Makeup exams can be considered when there is a conflict exam, documented medical or family emergency. In case of these situations, you must contact me IN ADVANCE. Make up exams can only be scheduled within a week of the exam, because we will go over exam answers in class a week from the exam day.

Late Paper Policy

If you have difficulty to finish the paper on time, please discuss with me about your situation IN ADVANCE. An extension may be granted. Otherwise late paper submission will receive point deduction (10% points per day, till zero).

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard for course materials/announcements distribution, assignment submission, and grade posting, etc..

Office hour and Appointments

During my office hours, you are welcome to walk in (BSB 1056B) without an appointment. If you need to meet me outside of the scheduled office hours, please make an appointment with me in advance.

Email Policy

Please ALWAYS start the subject of your email with “Psyc. 210”. This way I’ll know it is a course-related issue, not a spam. And please sign your full name in your email if it's not already obvious in your email body.

Religious Holidays:

Religious holidays are respected. If you need accommodations for religious reasons please contact me **in advance**. Arrangements can be made on individual basis.

Student Athletes:

Student athletes are required to provide the list of days that they will miss throughout the semester. Other accommodations such as exams on the road or paper extension may be arranged with the assistance of the Athletic Office.

Special Accommodations:

For students with documented physical or learning disabilities, I’m happy to provide any special accommodation that is needed. Please inform me of your situation within the first two weeks of the semester.

Additional Assistance:

It is my job to help you succeed in this class. It is your job to try. Please take full advantage of me and the TAs' office hours. Never hesitate to bring forward a question. If you feel that you need additional sources of help, you may also consult the:

- Writing center <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/>
- Psi Chi Tutoring: Psi Chi (the psychology honor society) students with expertise in various psychology courses hold office hours throughout the week. You can contact the President of UIC's Psi Chi chapter Jennifer Friedman (jfried23@uic.edu) for details.

Academic Integrity

No electronic devices is allowed during exams or quizzes. Usage of them during a test will be considered cheating. It is every student's responsibility to observe academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failure of assignments/exams to failure of the course.

Counseling services:

UIC and the Department of Psychology provide a variety of services for students who experience mental or psychological difficulties, if such need occurs, please refer to the following:

- Counseling center: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/counseling/>
- Office of Applied Psychological Services: <http://portal.psych.uic.edu/Clinical/centers.aspx>

- In-touch Crisis Hotline: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/counseling/hotline.shtml/>
- Campus Advocacy Network: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/owa/advocacy.html>

Course Schedule

Note: This is a **tentative schedule** for the lecture materials in this semester. I may need to change the order of the chapters as we move along.

	Date	Topic	Reading
WEEK 1	Jan. 12	Introduction to course; What is personality	Chapter 1
	Jan. 14	Research methods	Chapter 1 & 2
WEEK 2	Jan. 19	Issues in Personality assessments	Chapter 2
	Jan. 21		
WEEK 3	Jan. 26	Psychoanalytic theory	Chapter 3
	Jan. 28		
WEEK 4	Feb. 2	Neo-analytic theories	Chapter 4 (HW1 due) - Vinoad
	Feb. 4		
WEEK 5	Feb. 9	Neo-analytic theories	Chapter 4 (HW2 due) – Julie
	Feb. 11	Humanism, Existential theories	Chapter 9
WEEK 6	Feb. 16	First Exam	Chapter 1,2, 3, 4
	Feb. 18	Humanism, Existential theories	Chapter 9
WEEK 7	Feb. 23	Trait theory	Chapter 8 (HW3 due) - Ryan
	Feb. 25	Trait theory	Chapter 8
WEEK 8	Mar. 1	Trait theory - Motives	Chapter 8 (HW4 due) - Chyei
	Mar. 3	Behaviorism	Chapter 6
WEEK 9	Mar. 8	Behaviorism	Chapter 6
	Mar. 10	Biological approach	Chapter 5

WEEK 10	Mar. 15	Biological approach	Chapter 5
	Mar. 17	Exam 2	Chapters 6, 8, 9
WEEK 11	Mar. 22	Spring break, no class	
	Mar. 24		
WEEK 12	Mar. 29	Biological approach	Chapter 5
	Mar. 31	Cognitive approach	Chapter 7
WEEK 13	Apr. 5	Cognitive approach	Chapter 7 (Paper due by 11:59pm on SafeAssign)
	Apr. 7	Cognitive approach	Chapter 7
WEEK 14	Apr. 12	Self-regulation	
	Apr. 14	Self-regulation	
WEEK 15	Apr. 19	Sex difference	Chapter 11
	Apr. 21	Personality and culture	Chapter 13
WEEK 16	Apr. 26	Personality and culture	Chapter 13
	Apr. 28	Careers in personality psychology; wrap up	
Final's WEEK	May.4(W) 3:30-5:30pm		5, 7, 11, 13

Note: Final exam is in the regular classroom.

Exam responsibility