

**Psychology 210**  
**Theories of Personality**  
**Spring 2021**  
**CRN 14642**

Instructor: Julie J. Chen, Ph.D	Email: <a href="mailto:jchen10@uic.edu">jchen10@uic.edu</a>
Student Drop-in Hours: Wednesday 10am – 11am @ online via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra (first come first serve)	
<u>Format of the course:</u> <p>In Spring 2021, Psch 210 will be conducted online asynchronously – with a few synchronously live sessions (see the timetable for the schedule) throughout the semester.</p> <p>Since the lectures are asynchronous, you can choose your own study time. Plan your time as if you are taking this class in a regular semester – only with a flexible schedule. Reserve fixed blocks of time weekly for your study. I would recommend two blocks of time (60 ~75 minutes each) for the lectures and related assignments.</p> <p>Every week on Monday, the weekly lectures, Panopto videos and quizzes will be made available on Blackboard. The weekly quizzes start from week 3 and are always due on Fridays.</p> <p>There are also writing assignments (short ones and a long term paper) that require your time and effort. From week 4 to week 8, there are four short writing assignments based on the lecture chapters. Afterwards you will concentrate on working on the term paper, which will be due on Week 12.</p>	

Teaching Assistants & TA office hours:

TA	Office Hour
Mackenzie Jackeal <a href="mailto:mjaekel2@uic.edu">mjaekel2@uic.edu</a>	By appointment
Vinoadharen Nair Das <a href="mailto:vnaird2@uic.edu">vnaird2@uic.edu</a>	By appointment

**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.

**Optional Textbook (quiz and exam questions will come exclusively out of my lectures. Textbooks are optional):**

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

Burger J. (2008). *Personality* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Thomson & Wadsworth. (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.

## **Grades breakdown**

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 (10 points X 4 = 40 points)**

Starting from Week 3, approximately every week 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 reflect upon your own personality using the theory you learn from the lectures. 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: 250 words minimum; Include your name on the assignment.

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

### **Four exams – (60 points X3 = 180 points. Three required. Drop one low score if you take all four)**

The format of the exams is multiple choices. Each exam has 30 questions and covers approximately three chapters of materials. You can miss one exam with no questions asked (final included). If you take all four, I will drop the lowest score when I calculate the final grade.

All exams will be conducted online on Blackboard. The exams will be open for a window of time on Blackboard (9am – 11:59pm) on the exam day. Please reserve a 75-minutes time block on that day for the exam. You do have the flexibility to schedule your own exam time within that day.

All exams are close-notes.

### **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.

To accomplish this goal, you will complete a paper to discuss your personality and how it can be explained by two different theories you learn from class. You will pick three aspects of your personality and use two or three theories to discuss each aspect (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 5 - 7 pages long (double spaced, excluding the title page and the reference page), have at least three references, and should be in APA style. See the term paper guideline document for more detailed instructions.

**Weekly Quizzes (Approximately 50 points)**

Starting from the third week, every week, for once or twice I will give a quiz at the end of my lecture. The quiz is always based on the lecture materials of that week, and will be collected on Blackboard. You will see them in the folder “Weekly quizzes”. You will have until the end of the day on Friday (11:59pm) to complete the quizzes of that week. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Each quiz is worth roughly 4 to 6 points. They will be in the form of multiple choices question, true or false question, or fill-in-the-blanks questions. If the total points exceed 50, you will earn the rest as extra credit points.

**Total possible points = 40 + 180 + 100 + 50 = 370**

**I will use a grading scale of 360 to grade your final letter grade. Note that there are 10 extra points already built into the system therefore I won't offer additional extra credit points.**

**Grades**

Your grade will be assigned according to the following scale.

A 324 – 360	C 252 – 287	F 215 or below
B 288 – 323	D 216 – 251	

**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 to share course materials, collect assignments, and post grades.

**Student drop-in hours**

You don't need an appointment for my online student drop-in hours. Simply log in to the link I share on Blackboard. When there are multiple people coming to my office hour, we'll follow the first come first serve rule.

**Email Policy**

Please ALWAYS include the course information in your email (Psch 210) to avoid confusion on my part. 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 our 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/>

**Academic Integrity**

It is every student's responsibility to observe academic integrity. Our pop quizzes and exams are close-booked. Please observe your academic integrity when you take the pop quizzes and exams. Plagiarism on the term paper is prohibited. I will elaborate on what constitutes plagiarism in the term paper guideline, and also at the live session when I give the introduction on the term paper. 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>

- 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 change the content of the chapters as we move along.

	Date	Topic	Assignments	Reading
WEEK 1	01/12	General introduction of course <b>Live session on Blackboard 2 – 3pm</b>		Course syllabus
	01/14	Research methods (Panopto video)		Cronbach (1957)
WEEK 2	01/19	Issues in Personality assessments (Panopto video)		Cronbach, & Meehl (1955)
	01/21			
WEEK 3	01/26	Psychoanalytic theory (Panopto video)	Quiz 1	Freud (1914)
	01/28	Psychoanalytic theory (Panopto video)		
WEEK 4	02/02	Review session <b>Live session on Blackboard 2 – 3pm</b>	(HW1 due)	Jung (1921)
	02/04	<b>Exam 1 (online, available from 9am until 11:59pm)</b>		
WEEK 5	02/09	Neo-analytic theories (Panopto video)		Harlow (1958)
	02/11	Neo-analytic theories (Panopto video)	Quiz 2	Maslow (1943)
WEEK 6	02/16	Neo-analytic theories	(HW2 due)	

		(Panopto video)		
	02/18	Humanism (Panopto video)	Quiz 3	
WEEK 7	02/23	Trait theory (Panopto video)	(HW3 due)	McCrae & Costa (1987)
	02/25	Trait theory (Panopto video)	Quiz 4	
WEEK 8	03/02	<b>Exam 2</b> <b>(online, available from 9am</b> <b>until 11:59pm)</b>		
	03/04	<b>Information on the term paper</b> <b>Live session on Blackboard</b> <b>2 – 3 pm</b>	(HW4 due)	
WEEK 9	03/09	Motive theory (Panopto video)		
	03/11	Behaviorism (Panopto video)	Quiz 5	Skinner (1948)
WEEK 10	03/16	Behaviorism (Panopto video)	Quiz 6	
	03/18	Biological approach (Panopto video)	Quiz 7	White (1959)
	03/22 – 03/26	<b>Spring Break</b> <b>No Class</b>		
WEEK 11	03/30	Term paper Q & A session <b>Live session on Blackboard</b> <b>2 – 3pm</b>		

	04/01	<b>Exam 3</b> (online, available from 9am until 11:59pm)		
WEEK 12	04/06	Evolutionary approach	(Paper due by 11:59pm on SafeAssign) Quiz 8	
	04/08	Cognitive approach (Panopto video)		
WEEK 13	04/13	Cognitive approach (Panopto video)	Quiz 9	
	04/15	Self-regulation (Panopto video)	Quiz 10	
WEEK 14	04/20	Personality and culture (Panopto video)		
	04/22	Personality and culture (Panopto video)	Quiz 11	
WEEK 15	04/27	<b>Final review and wrap up</b> <b>Live session on Blackboard</b> <b>2 – 3pm</b>	Final paper grade revealed	
	04/29	<b>Exam 4</b> (online, available from 9am until 11:59pm)		
Finals' Week	No exam scheduled during the Finals' week			

Reading list:

Cronbach, Lee J. (1957). The two disciplines of scientific psychology. *American Psychologist*, 12, 671-684.  
<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Cronbach/Disciplines/>

Cronbach, Lee J. & Meehl, Paul E. (1955). Construct validity in psychological tests. *Psychological Bulletin*, 52, 281-302.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Cronbach/construct.htm>

Freud, Sigmund. (1914). *The history of the psychoanalytic movement*.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Freud/History/index.htm>

Jung, Carl G. (1921). General description of the types. Chapter 10 of *Psychological types*.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Jung/types.htm>

Harlow, Harry F. (1958). The nature of love. *American Psychologist*, 13, 573-685.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Harlow/love.htm>

Maslow, Abraham H. (1943). A theory of human motivation. *Psychological Review*, 50, 370-396.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Maslow/motivation.htm>

McCrae, R. R., & Costa, P. T. (1987). Validation of the five-factor model of personality across instruments and observers. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52(1), 81-90.

Skinner, B. F. (1948). 'Superstition' in the pigeon. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 38, 168-172.

<https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Skinner/Pigeon/>

White, R. W. (1959). Motivation Reconsidered: The concept of competence. *Psychological Review*, 66, 297 – 333.