Syllabus

PSYC 3081, version 1.2

Updated: May 20, 2016

PSYC 3081—Personality

Course Description: Determinants and dynamics of personality; theory and research.

Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is *not responsible* for student purchases that result in *the receipt of the wrong materials. It is the responsibility of the student to* order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbook

Charles S. Carver and Michael F. Scheier. *Perspectives on Personality*. Seventh edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2012.
ISBN-13: 978-0-205-15136-3

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. Always order by the ISBN. Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at *Answers@outreach.lsu.edu* for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: *Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Web Browser, Adobe Acrobat Reader*

Students must use a recent version of MS Word to view course documents.

In each module, your instructor has provided a PowerPoint presentation with audio commentary for the relevant chapter.

It is recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers,* and *high speed internet*

Exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available.

Technical Requirements: http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php

Equipment Test: http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify key figures and concepts associated with the major perspectives on personality
2. Explain scientific methods used to study personality
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the major perspectives on personality
4. Apply the principles of personality psychology to everyday life

Across a wide variety of subdisciplines, psychological research is fundamentally about understanding and predicting human behavior. In order to accomplish these goals, psychological researchers must look both for general principles that apply broadly across individuals, as well as for factors that influence individual differences. The concept of personality is one factor that holds intuitive appeal in attempts to explain individual differences, because each of us naturally has a sense of a unique, coherent self that endures across situations. However, despite this intuitive sense, the concept of personality is far from clear cut. Personality theorists have long struggled not only to define personality, but also to explain the influences that shape it and the factors that determine when it can accurately predict the behavior of individuals.

The purpose of PSYC 3081 Personality Psychology is to familiarize the learner with the theoretical perspectives on personality that define and guide modern research. We begin in Module 1 by defining what modern researchers mean when using the term personality, and exploring a bit of the history of the development of psychological theories. In Modules 2 and 3, we will discuss scientific research methods used to study personality, from determining causality through experimentation (Module 2) to ensuring the quality of measurement tools used in research (Module 3). From there, we will move on to discussing the major metatheoretical perspectives that have given rise to specific, testable personality theories (Modules 4 through 13). Finally, in Module 14 we will discuss integration of these perspectives, comparing the strengths and weaknesses in order to determine how best to consider each within the context of the field of personality psychology.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

Within each module there are three main tasks to complete: reviewing reading and supplemental materials, completing assignments, and taking quizzes. In the last module, you will also complete a final paper assignment. For each module, you will first read the textbook chapter assigned for that module. In addition to each assigned reading, you will find at least one narrated powerpoint (uploaded as a video file) on the Moodle page for this course that will help explain a key concept from the module, and/or provide information about a related topic not covered in your text. For convenience, the scripts to these videos can also be found on the Moodle page, under the title Module Materials. After reviewing these materials, you will complete the module assignment. Finally, you will complete the module quiz.

Module Assignments. There will be one module assignment per module. These assignments will be worth 30 course points each and will consist of 20 multiple-choice items and 2 short-answer items. There is no time limit for completion of module assignments, and obviously you are free to refer to your textbook as you complete them. However, please be mindful that answers to the short-answer items should be in *your own words*. **Copying sentences partially or in full from the textbook is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated.**

Module Quizzes. There will also be one module quiz per module. Each quiz will be worth 10 course points and will consist of 20 multiple-choice items. Unlike assignments, quizzes *will* be timed. You will have half an hour to complete each quiz. For this reason, although you are free to use your textbook to complete quizzes, it is highly recommended that you have both read the assigned chapter and completed the Module Assignment prior to completing the quiz.

Extra Credit. Please note that your course grade will be determined by the sum of points earned on module assignments, module quizzes, and exams. There is *no* opportunity for extra credit in this course. If you have concerns about your performance, please contact the instructor early on for help in raising your scores on required components of the course.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

Module reading assignments from the text vary somewhat in length, but you will generally read around 30 pages of text per module. Specific information on reading assignments and supplemental materials will be given within each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	What is Personality?
02	Personality Research Methods
03	Personality Assessment
04	The Trait Perspective
05	The Motive Perspective

06   Genetics and Evolution

07   Biological Processes

    Mid-Course Examination

08   The Psychoanalytic Perspective

09   The Psychosocial Perspective

10   The Learning Perspective

11   The Humanist Perspective

12   The Cognitive Perspective

13   The Self-Relation Perspective

14   Overlap and Integration of Theories

    Final Examination

Module Assignments

Within each module, you will find a link titled "Module Assignment." Each module assignment consists of 20 multiple-choice questions and 2 short-answer items. All items should appear on one page once you click to begin the assignment. You have as much time as you wish to complete the assignments, but please note that the best practice would be to read the textbook and watch the supplemental video(s) for the module before attempting to complete the assignment. For multiple-choice items, simply select the *best* answer for each item. For short-answer items, read the item carefully and be sure you are providing the information requested, including answering all parts of the question. For example, if an item asks you to *identify* a concept and then *explain the process*, you would first need to provide the correct term from the textbook and then list any steps involved. Please note that the identification portion of this would involve using exact terminology from the book, but explanations and descriptions should be in *your own words*. Your answer should include enough specific information to address the question, but generally should not exceed one paragraph (5 to 7 sentences) or so in length. Once you have answered ALL assignment items to your satisfaction, you must hit SUBMIT in order for your assignment to be sent to the instructor for grading. Your multiple-choice items will be graded automatically, and feedback about any incorrect answers will be available immediately. Short-answer items will be graded by the instructor.

In Module 14, the assignment contains only 10 multiple-choice questions and 2 short-answer items, while the quiz contains only 10 multiple-choice questions. This is because you will be asked to complete a final paper in addition to the questions for this module. The detailed instructions for the final paper, including the grading rubric, are available to you throughout the course on the Moodle course page. You will download and follow these instructions in writing your 5-page final paper. Once your paper is complete, you will upload the Word document to Moodle for grading by the instructor. Please note that although you can work on

the paper while you are completing other assignments, you will not be allowed to submit it until after you have completed both the assignment and quiz for Module 14.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Once you *submit* an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days.* Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

Please note that you must submit module assignments in order. For example, you cannot submit the Module 3 Assignment before you have submitted the Module 2 Assignment. You can, however, complete subsequent assignments while you are waiting for submitted assignments to be graded, if you choose. However, it is generally recommended that you wait for feedback before doing so.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, *you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material,* and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct.* Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the ODL Academic Integrity policy on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations containing both multiple-choice and short-answer items. The mid-course exam follows Module 7, and the final exam follows Module 15.

The mid-course exam will comprise approximately 60 multiple-choice questions and 3 short-answer questions. The final exam will contain approximately 100 multiple-choice questions and 5 short-answer questions, and it will be cumulative. You will have a maximum of *three hours* to complete each exam.

Your course grade will equal the total points earned. This total will be broken down as follows.

Graded Materials:
14 Module Assignments worth 30 points each   [420 points total]
14 Module Quizzes worth 10 points each   [140 points total]
1 Final Paper worth 40 points   [40 points total]
2 Exams   [400 points total]
       Mid-course [150 points]
       Cumulative Final [250 points]
Course grade = total points earned   [1000 points total]

The following grading scale applies:
    97%–100% = A+
      93%–96% = A
      90%–92% = A-
      87%–89% = B+
      83%–86% = B
      80%–82% = B-
      77%–79% = C+
      73%–76% = C
      70%–72% = C-
      67%–69% = D+
      63%–66% = D
      60%–62% = D-
       0%–59% = F

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION
IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

2. You must have a *grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 14 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam*. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus,* select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access. Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers*, and *high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options at:

http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/.

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