

Syllabus, Psychology 7230-0

Personality Theory

Spring, 2009

Dr. Brian T. Tschanz

Office: # 423 Ed

Class Meets: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Wednesday. Industrial Science, 101A

Text: *Pieces of The Personality Puzzle* (4th ed.) D. C. Funder & D. J. Ozer, W.W. Norton & Company; and *Current Directions in Personality Psychology (2005)*. C. C. Morf & O. Ayduk (Eds). American Psychological Society.

E-mail: btschanz@usu.edu

Phone: 435 - 797 - 1457.

Office Hours: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment.

Course Objectives: My goal for this course is to provide the student with a broad, yet fairly sophisticated, overview of extant research and theory in personality. Because the study of personality has been approached from biological, clinical, social-psychological, and developmental perspectives, it is an area that tends to offer something interesting for everyone.

My general modus operandi will be to follow a particular topic matter within personality (e.g., psychodynamic personality) from its early-to-mid 20th century roots up to its relatively recent past (as recently as possible).

Below, I present the course objectives in the standardized format to which you have become accustomed.

The student will become knowledgeable about:

1. type, trait, and interactionist approaches, as well as controversies surrounding these approaches.
2. research and theory on the anatomical, physiological, and genetic bases of personality.
3. Freudian and post-Freudian psychodynamic theory and research.
4. social-cognitive theoretical and empirical approaches to personality.
5. phenomenological theoretical and empirical approaches to personality.
6. self, cross-cultural, and goal-pursuit approaches. These approaches tend to blend the psychodynamic, social-cognitive, and phenomenological approaches.

For the record, I tend to see different approaches to personality as complementary rather than competing perspectives on the person.

Course Structure: I typically prefer to set aside a good deal of time to discuss the readings with my graduate students. But, if the past is a good predictor of what would likely happen in this particular course, the readings would more often than not go unread by majority of you by class time, leading to uncomfortable silence from you folks and thinly veiled hostility and irritation from me.

I think that it is safe to assume that none of us really wants that.

It is my plan, then, that this will be a conventional class in which I lecture and you listen, take notes, and ask questions. If the readings occasionally get talked about, however, it will not hurt my feelings. I also have no objections to the having of fun from time to time (for example, I often giggle myself silly during lecture).

Electronic Device Policy: The use of cell phones, I-phones, Blackberries, and the like will not be tolerated during class time. If you have a laptop out, I will assume that you are using it to take notes and nothing else.

Cheating policy: If discovered, cheating on an examination and/or plagiarizing on a paper will result in an automatic failing grade and immediate notification of the appropriate university authorities.

Course Grading: Your grades will depend upon your performances on the below listed bases of evaluation:

1. Three examinations (three midterms). Each examination will be worth 30% of the total-course grade (i.e., 120 points each). The nature of these examinations (e.g., in-class essay versus take-home) will be determined at a later date (it will depend partly on the size of the class).
2. Your in-class presentation on the relevance of some body of theory and research in personality to your own research. The annotated presentation that you will hand in to me ahead of time will be worth 10% of your grade (40 points). We will discuss these presentations more fully later in the semester.

Grade Scale

A: 376 to 400 points
A-: 360 to 375
B+: 344 to 359
B: 328 to 343
B-: 312 to 327
C+: 311 and below.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 9th). Introduction and methods, types, traits, and interactionism.

Reading: *Cronbach and Meehl* in Funder and Ozer (pages 19 to 27); *Allport, Mischel, and Kendrick and Funder* in Funder and Ozer (pages 43 to 77);

McCrae and Costa in Morf and Ayduk (pages 3 to 8).

Week 2 (January 16th). Types, traits, and interactionism; and perhaps a start on the genetic basis of personality.

Reading: *McCrae and Costa*, and *Ozer and Benet-Martinez* in Funder and Ozer (pages 78 to 104); *Borkenau et al.* in Funder and Ozer (pages 127 to 137).

Saudino in Morf and Ayduk (pages 57 to 64).

Week 3 (January 23rd). The genetic and biological basis of personality.

Reading: *Dabbs et al.*, *Canli*, *Caspi*, and *Farah* in Funder and Ozer (pages 109 to 126, and 138 to 152).

DiPietro, Kemeny, and Bevins in Morf and Ayduk (pages 33 to 56).

Sapolsky, R. M. The Trouble with Testosterone (In Sapolsky, 1997).

Week 4 (January 30th). Freud's legacy: The psychoanalytic perspective.

Reading: *Freud* and *Jung*, in Funder and Ozer (pages 181 to 194).

Popper, K. Science: Conjecture and Refutations (1963: in Curd and Cover, 1998).

Kuhn, T. Logic of Discovery or Psychology of Research (1970; in Curd and Cover, 1998).

Lakatos, I. Science and Pseudo-science (1977: in Curd and Cover, 1998)

Waller, J. The Eclipse of Isaac Newton: Arthur Eddington's "Proof" of General Relativity (in Waller, 2002).

Week 5 (February 6th). Unconscious and Defense: Freud Updated and Revised.

"Many aspects of Freudian theory are indeed out of date, and they should be: Freud died in 1939, and he has been slow to undertake further revisions."

Drew Westen

"A prophetic madman is at least amusing; a superannuated fuddy-duddy is merely pathetic."

Steven Jay Gould

Reading: *Baumeister et al.* in Funder and Ozer (pages 210 to 224).

Gross, Labovief-bief, and Anderson and Berk in Morf and Ayduk (pages 70 to 86, and 125 – 136)

Week 6 (February 13th). Post-Freudian Psychodynamics.

Reading: *Horney and Erikson* in Funder and Ozer (pages 195 to 209).

Maestripieri, Goldsmith and Harman, and Baumeister et al. in Morf and Ayduk (pages 27 to 33, 107 to 112, and 118 to 124).

February 13th: Midterm.

Week 7 (February 20th). On the 20th, we will catch up on lecture materials (if necessary), tie up loose ends, **and talk about your presentations.**

Reading: *If you're behind, catch up!*

Week 8 (February 27th). Social Cognitive Conceptions.

Reading: *Kenrick and Funder, Skinner, Bandura, and Mischel* in Funder and Ozer (pages 61 to 77, and 355 to 391).

Week 9 (March 5th). Social Cognitive Processes.

Reading: *Mischel et al, Flesson, Robison, Werner, Folkman and Moskowitz, and Gottfredson and Deary* in Morf and Ayduk (pages 9 to 22, 87 to 92, 68 to 173, 181 to 186, and 201 to 207).

Week 10(March 9th through 13th). SPRING BREAK. Go play in the snow

Week 11: (March 19th) The Phenomenological Perspective.

Reading: *Steinem, Maslow, Rogers, Csikszentmihalyi, and Dahlsgaard et al.* (pages 225 to 231, 235 to 267, and 287 to 298).

Week 12 (March 26th): Phenomenological Perspective.

Reading: *Fincham, Asher, Keltner et al., DeNeve, Thompson and Stice* (pages 149 to 156, 174 to 180, 187 to 200, and 208 to 212).

Fromm, E. *Freedom and the Growth of the Self*, 1941 (in Fromm, 1985).

March 26th: Midterm II.

Week 13 (Apr. 2nd): Personality in the Pursuit of Goals.

Reading: *McAdams, Lyubomirsky et al., and Sheldon et al.* in Funder and Ozer (pages 3 to 14, 268 to 286, and 392 to 402).

Brody in Morf and Ayduk (pages 143 to 148).

Week 14 (Apr. 9th). Pursuit of Goals and the Self and Related Topics.

Reading: *Gosling et al., Donnellan et al., and Klein et al.* in Funder and Ozer (pages 28 to 40, and 408 to 426).

Week 15 (Apr. 16th). The Self and Personality in its Context and Culture.

Reading: *Buss et al., and Eagly and Wood* in Funder and Ozer (pages 153 to 178).

Swann, and *Leary* in Morf and Ayduk (pages 100 to 106, and 137 to 142).

Week 16 (April 23rd). ***Class Presentations (hand in annotated versions).***

Reading: *Triandis*, *Markus and Kitayama*, *Tsai and Chentsova-Dutton*, and *Oishi* in Funder and Ozer (pages 301 to 336, and 346 to 351).

Final, Wednesday 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., April 30th