PSYC2019 Personality Course Outline

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Overarching Course Goals
The overarching goals of this introduction course to personality psychology are to:
1. Examine some theoretical conceptions within the developing field of personality, based on a framework of important domains of knowledge about personality functioning.
2. Examine issues in the psychology of personality so that students will come to develop a better understanding of what psychology can offer an account of individual differences.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate understanding of key theoretical conceptions within the field of personality based on the major domains of knowledge and from viewpoints of personality theorists covered in the course.
2. Appreciate the research design and assessment methods of current scientific inquiry in personality psychology while also be able to evaluate the research findings critically.
3. Develop a critical perspective on some of the ways as psychologists we understand ourselves and our behavior.
4. Apply personality theories and concepts to situations, familiar or novel, in everyday life.

Textbook

Course Content and Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Textbook*</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>L1: What is Personality Psychology?</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>L2: Methods and Issues in Personality Assessment</td>
<td>Ch 13, 14</td>
<td>2, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 01</td>
<td>L3: The Psychoanalytic Perspective</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<td>Feb 08</td>
<td>L4: Psychosocial Theories</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 01</td>
<td>L5: The Learning Perspective</td>
<td>Ch 8</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Mid-term test  Venue: CYPP2 / LE5 / LE7</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>L6: Humanistic and Existential Perspectives (submit proposed essay title)</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>L7: The Trait Perspective</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>L8: Biological and Evolutionary Perspectives</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>L9: The Cognitive Perspective</td>
<td>Ch 10</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Final test Venue: CYPP2 / LE5 / LE7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 03</td>
<td>(submit essay)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
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*Note: The key to this course is on comprehending the concepts related to the psychology of personality. The assessment (see below) will focus on understanding of concepts rather than on materials that come from the specific textbook chapter(s). Also, not all topics within the chapter will be covered in the lectures, while materials covered in the lectures are also incorporated as necessary.
Course Activities and Requirements

Tutorial Participation (10%)
Tutorials constitute an important part of the course to facilitate learning through in-class activities and discussion among group members of issues related to the course. Students will need to attend ALL tutorial classes (5%) and participate actively (5%). You will need to sign up for tutorials via Moodle from January 25, 2018 onward, and tutorials will begin in the following week. If you have any questions regarding the tutorial arrangement, please contact the tutorial coordinator Mr. Chin-hei WONG at tchwong@hku.hk.

Mid-term Test (20%)
The mid-term test will consist of multiple-choice questions (60%) and questions requiring short responses (40%). You will need a good understanding of the terminology, concepts, as well as theories covered in the required readings and lectures. Only topics covered in L1 to L4 will be included in the mid-term test. The results of the mid-term test will be announced through Moodle within three weeks and you will have the opportunity to review the test with your tutor afterwards. Good samples of the short responses will be posted on Moodle for your reference.

Final Test (30%)
The final test will consist of multiple-choice questions (60%) and questions requiring short responses (40%). The topics covered in L5 to L9 will be included. Although the focus will be on materials not covered by the mid-term test, a thorough understanding of the materials for the entire course is necessary. The results of the final test will be announced through Moodle within three weeks and you will have the opportunity to review the test with your tutor afterwards. Good samples of the short responses will be posted on Moodle for your reference.

Essay (40%)
At the end of the semester, each student will hand in an essay based on one of the topics covered in the course. This will provide students with an opportunity to delve into a topic on personality psychology in greater depth and think critically about a theory of personality. Please refer to a separate document on Moodle for more information about the essay.

To help you better prepare for the essay, you will have to turn in a proposed title including the person of your analysis and the personality perspective of your choice by 5:00pm on March 22, 2018 through Moodle. Your tutor will let you know if the proposed title is appropriate.

The final essay is to be within 2000-2500 words (excluding title page, abstract, and references), double-spaced, typed, stapled, and must adhere to the APA Publication Manual (points would be deducted for not adhering to the 6th edition of the APA style). Papers will be graded for clarity, coherence, strength of arguments and writing style, and, and they will due by 5:00pm on due date (see page 1). Late submission will lose 20% of the essay grade per calendar day for the particular course component. No paper will be accepted one week after the due date.

Please submit the final work in SOFT copies VIA MOODLE to the tutors. The grade of your essay will be available before May 25, 2018.
Important Notes (Please read them carefully)

**Assignment preparation and submission.** Students should send the soft copy of the essay via Moodle **BEFORE** the due time on the due date (see above). Paper copies should be identical to the soft copies of the work. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students and scholars at HKU and other universities. No scores will be given for any submitted work that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for the entire course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

Although you are encouraged to share your views and course-relevant resources with your classmates, **NEVER** show them any of your own written work (drafts or completed assignments). Materials other people wrote (whether published or unpublished) may be used in your assignments only with proper acknowledgement and referencing. Neither may you use materials submitted for another course without proper acknowledgement (This is called *self-plagiarism*). If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense of plagiarism, checkout the webpage at [http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism](http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism). The Department of Psychology has formulated departmental policies/guidelines on student misconduct. Visit the website at [http://www.psychology.hku.hk/~main/?page_id=1814](http://www.psychology.hku.hk/~main/?page_id=1814) for more information.

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying other students’ work, and abetting to any of the above. Any academic misconduct will subject students to a **Failing** grade in this course.

**Classroom citizenship.** Sometimes we will discuss controversies in certain topics. Please respect other people in this class, even if they hold different and opposing opinions. Rudeness, lack of consideration, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behaviors may be requested to leave the classroom. Moreover, to show respect to the presenter and others, please switch off your mobile phone and do not use a computer (unless you have gained the instructor’s approval) in class.

**Sick leave policy.** For both mid-term and final tests, when an *original copy* (email or soft copy will NOT be accepted) of the doctor's certificate is submitted to your tutor within 1 week, a make-up quiz (contains only 1 essay question) will be arranged. For tutorial / class participation, when an *original copy* of the doctor's certificate is submitted to your tutor within 1 week, only attendance marks but NOT participation marks will be given. Absence without a doctor’s certificate or other valid reasons preapproved by the tutor will receive 0 marks for the particular test and for participation of the particular tutorial/class.

If students get sick on the due-date for submitting their essay, they should notify the tutor by email and send a copy of the current state-of-work before the due time in order to be granted extension, which is permissible only if your doctor gives you **two or more** consecutive days of sick leave inclusive of the day on which the work is due. An original copy of the doctor’s certificate should be submitted together with your work so that late penalty will be waived for the sick leave period. Note that for sick leave of longer than **two** consecutive days, students will also have to apply for formal medical leave from the university in order to be granted further extension.

***This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and/or via the Moodle system.***