

SOSC2980 Personality Psychology | Spring 2024

Lecture: Thursday 9:00 – 11:50AM
Venue: Room 2303 ~~Room 4580~~,
Academic Building
CANVAS: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/55273>
Instructor: [Professor Michelle YIK](#)
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Consultation: By appointment through email
TA's email: sosc2980ta@ust.hk

- Check CANVAS announcements regularly.
- Do not leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.

When contacting us by email, ALWAYS prefix the subject line of your message with the course code (i.e., [sosc 2980]). Use your university email account only.

GOALS

1. To survey major approaches to understanding personality. This goal can be achieved by reading the texts.
2. To highlight select topics which I consider to be important and are of interest to me. This goal can be achieved by attending lectures. The lectures and the readings supplement each other in advancing your understanding of the topics.
3. To apply the principles/theories in understanding individual differences and everyday behaviors. This goal can be achieved by actively participating in group work and class activities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- identify the issues on which personality theories tend to differ
- list the methods of personality assessment and common measures of personality
- compare major approaches to understanding personality
- explain theoretical concepts using behavioral examples drawn from everyday life

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Burger, J. M., & Reevy, G. M. (2022). Personality (11th ed.). US: Sage.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Class Participation	10%
Group Case Analysis & Critique	40%
Tests	50%

Class Participation (10%)

- The prerequisite for class participation is attendance, although I do not take attendance.
- Using your questions raised in class or sent via emails, I will prepare a concluding session for each lecture topic.
- Your class participation score will be determined by the quality and quantity of issues raised by you.

Group Case Analysis & Critique (40%)

- You will be randomly assigned to a group after the add/drop period. We will assign a group leader for each group.
- Using iPeer, you will evaluate the contributions of fellow members towards the completion of both group tasks. Using the iPeer ratings, I will adjust each person's grade. [We will release your comments upon the receipt of ALL ratings from your group.](#)

Item	Task	Description
#1	Case Analysis (30%)	Using the Trait Approach, each group is to prepare a case write-up.
#2	Critique (10%)	Each group is to write a critique on an assigned case analysis.

Note. Read the guidelines for more information

Tests (50%)

- Multiple choice questions. In both tests (25% each), you are responsible for **all materials covered in the lectures and REQUIRED readings from the e-textbook.**
- Be sure to **arrive on time** for each test since no additional time will be given to students who arrive late.
- *Important Note:* There will be **NO** make-up test. This means that if you miss this exam, you will simply lose the number of points associated with it. Your grade will therefore be computed as if that particular entry was a zero. The only exception to this rule is a validated medical excuse. Such excuses must be in the form of a written note from your doctor, attesting to the fact that on the day of the test, you were too ill to attend it. The make-up consists of **long answers** and an **oral session**.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Required	Optional
1	01 Feb / Thr	01. Introduction	Chps 1, 2	
2	08 Feb / Thr	01. Introduction		
3	15 Feb / Thr	02. The Psychoanalytic Approach	Chps 3, 4	Chps 5, 6
4	22 Feb / Thr	02. The Psychoanalytic Approach		
5	29 Feb / Thr	03. The Trait Approach	Chps 7, 8	Chp 10
6	07 Mar / Thr	03. The Trait Approach Briefing on the Group Case		
7	14 Mar / Thr	Test 1 – “Introduction” to “The Trait Approach”		
8	21 Mar / Thr	[No class] ZOOM group meetings with Michelle		
9	28 Mar / Thr	Mid-term break		
9	04 Apr / Thr	Public holiday		
10	10 Apr / Wed	Group Case Analysis due at 12 noon		
	11 Apr / Thr	04. The Behavioral Approach	Chps 13, 14	
11	17 Apr / Wed	Critique & iPeer ratings due at 12 noon		
	18 Apr / Thr	05. The Humanistic Approach	Chps 11, 12	
12	25 Apr / Thr	06. The Cognitive Approach	Chps 15, 16	
13	02 May / Thr	Review		
14	09 May / Thr	Test 2 – “The Behavioral Approach” to “The Cognitive Approach”		

Note. Both required and optional readings come from the textbook. On CANVAS, several fun-to-read articles will be provided for each topic.