

PSY3025: Psychology of Personality and Individual Differences
Fall, 2023 (3 credits)

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Class meets: Mon: 01:30PM–04:15PM

Office Hours: by appointment

TA: TBD

I . Course Overview

- **Description**

How do individuals differ and how are they the same? What factors shape the development of our personalities? This course will introduce students to some of the major psychological theories of and approaches to understanding personality and individual differences. We will critically examine theory and research on traits, genetics, neuroscience, self and identity, humanistic and positive perspectives, regulation and motivation, and cognition, integrating these views into a more complete understanding of personality and individual differences.

- **Prerequisites**

Prior completion of PSY2001 (General Psychology) is strongly encouraged; although freshmen are allowed for taking this course, sophomore standing or higher are recommended.

- **Course Format**

Lecture	Discussion	Experiment/Practicum	Field study	Presentations	Other
80%	20%	%	%	%	%

- **Evaluation**

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Assignments	Participation	Other
40%	40%	15%	5%	%

II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify and describe major theoretical approaches in contemporary personality psychology
- Explain examples of contemporary personality research as they relate to major personality theories
- Describe and apply the methods used in personality psychology research
- Discuss the complexity of personality psychology as the study of the whole person
- Recognize misrepresentative ways of describing people and thinking about personality
- Apply theory and research from personality psychology to understand everyday experience

This course is designed to contribute to the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

- Master the depth of knowledge required for a degree

- Demonstrate critical thinking
- Communicate effectively and work collaboratively
- Practice personal and social responsibility
- Demonstrate social, cultural, and global competence
- Prepare to engage in lifelong learning

III. Course Format

- This course will be delivered **in-person** unless otherwise changed by the university.
- Course time will be split among lecture and in-class activities. Students are expected to keep up with the out-of-class readings and complete in-class activities in order to be best prepared for class exams. During in-class discussion, students will form a sub-group of 4–5 people and discuss about given topics.
- Contacting me via email is the best way to get help outside classroom. Please include “**PSY3025**” in the subject line of any emails to help me get back to you as soon as possible.

IV. Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

- **Midterm and Final Exams**
Midterm and final exams will be held **offline** during midterm and finals weeks (see the schedule below). Each exam has 50 multiple-choice questions. These exams are **not cumulative** and will only cover material from their respective section of the course. However, understanding the material from midterm exam will help you do well on final exam. The exams will test your understanding of the information presented in lectures, from your textbook, and any assigned readings.
- **Three In-Class Assignments**
Throughout the semester, you will be given three in-class assignments that can only be completed in class. That means that you can only obtain points assigned to this part by attending class. These assignments will be provided at the beginning of a class without any notification in advance. So, come to class!
- **In-Class Participation**
Questions, comments, thoughts, and communication are considered as class participation, which will be graded by the instructor (me).
- **Final Grades**
Your total percentage will be rounded to the nearest whole number and assigned a letter based on the performance.

** If you wish to dispute a grade on an exam, you must submit a written rationale to justify the change within 1 week of receiving your grade.*

V. Course Policies

- **Attendance Policy**
Attendance in this course will be recorded as regulated by the university (i.e., FA system). Although attendance itself is not taken into account as grade points, you are

expected to attend all of our class meetings. Although the content of the lectures, textbook, and readings will frequently overlap, you may be tested on material from assigned readings that was not discussed in lecture, or about topics discussed in lecture that were not covered in the assigned readings. To be fully prepared for the exams and get the most out of this course, it is important that you regularly attend lectures and complete all assigned readings.

At the same time, there are University excused reasons for missing a class or assignment. If an absence is excused, I will provide you an opportunity to make up any exam or work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative. You are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to substantiate the reason for the absence. A university-excused absence does not relieve you of responsibility for prior notification and documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the honor code.

If you have evidence for a university excused absence, you must let me know via email at least 24 hours before the absence (when possible). In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g., accident, or emergency), you must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Accommodations sought for absences due to the observance of a religious holiday can be sought either prior or after the absence, but not later than two working days after the absence. In the specific instance of illness or injury lasting three or less days, I require you to provide a document that formally proves the status/situation.

- ***Our Learning Environment***

Please be respectful of our learning environment and abstain from any behaviors that might prevent you or your classmates from paying attention and participating in class. You can help by arriving to class on time, not speaking while others are speaking, putting your phone on SILENT, using computers only for class-related tasks such as taking notes or viewing papers, and not presenting inappropriate comments or questions to the class.

On some occasions, we may discuss issues that are controversial or that you have strong views on. In such cases, everyone is expected to maintain an environment of respect for one another and the ideas that are presented. On some occasions, we may also discuss academic topics that may be disturbing to some people. You are always free to step outside during one of these discussions without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material that you miss. If you ever wish to discuss any concerns or reactions that you have, please don't hesitate to meet with me.

To make this environment comfortable for everyone, please remember that there are many students with different experiences and needs in one room. This class does not tolerate remarks that are sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise ridicule people.

- ***Academic Integrity***

Upon accepting admission to Sogang University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the honor code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the honor system. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Sogang University community from the requirements or the processes of the honor system.

VI. Materials and References

- **Required Textbook**

Funder, D. (2019). *The Personality Puzzle* (8th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton

The textbook is available at the campus bookstore and online (<http://www.pakhaksa.co.kr>). Previous edition of this textbook (7th ed.) and used copies are perfectly acceptable.

- **Lecture Slides and Additional Readings**

Lecture slides will be provided on the course webpage (<http://cyber.sogang.ac.kr>); however, these slides will not include all of the content that was presented in lecture. They are intended to serve as an outline for you to take your own notes and think about the material rather than a list of definitions to be memorized.

Additional readings relevant to the topics we discuss in class will be assigned and posted on the course webpage. These readings will consist of approximately 2-3 outside journal articles relevant to personality psychology.

VII. Course Schedule

* Course schedule is subjected to change.

	Reading		
Week 1 (Sept/04)	Ch. 1	Course Overview Study of Personality	
Week 2 (Sept/11)	Ch. 2	Guest Lecture Research Method I	
Week 3 (Sept/18)	Ch. 2	Research Method II	
Week 4 (Sept/25)	Ch. 3	Personality Assessment	
Week 5 (Oct/02)	Ch. 4	Persons x Situations	
Week 6 (Oct/09)	No class		
Week 7 (Oct/16)	Ch. 5	Personality Judgment	
Week 8 (Oct/23)	Midterm Exam		
Week 9 (Oct/30)	Ch. 6	Traits & Types	
Week 10 (Nov/06)	Ch. 7	Personality Stability, Development, and	

		Change	
Week 11 (Nov/13)	Ch. 12	Positive Psychology	
Week 12 (Nov/20)	Ch. 13	Culture	
Week 13 (Nov/27)	Ch. 14	Personality Processes	
Week 14 (Dec/04)	Ch. 15	Self and Identity	
Week 15 (Dec/11)		TBD	
Week 16 (Dec/18)	Final Exam		

VIII. Special Accommodations

If you believe you have a disability or any issue/problem that may affect your attendance and performance requiring a special accommodation, please notify me and discuss about it ***within the first two weeks***. In principle, you will be provided with educational opportunities that are equal/equivalent to students without those issues.