

Psychology 360: Personality Research

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1 Outline (to be added to frequently – keep checking)

This is the abbreviated form of the syllabus, The full syllabus is at <https://personality-project.org/courses/360.syllabus.pdf>

Current version of November 21, 2022

1.1 News of changes

2 Daily assignments and notes

Week	Topic	Lecture Notes	Readings	Secondary Readings
1	Multiple approaches to personality research	Introduction to the course	Revelle, Wilt and Condon (2011) Individual differences and differential psychology: A brief history and prospect Revelle and Oehlberg (2008) Integrating experimental and observational personality research Atherton et al. 2021 Why has personality psychology played an outsized role in the credibility revolution?	Take the SAPA inventory your scores are anonymous Revelle (2007) Experimental Approaches to Personality Research
2a	Personality Taxonomies	Taxonomies of Personality The Big Few	Revelle (1995) Personality Processes Francis Galton Charles Spearman	Revelle, Condon and Wilt (2011) Methodological Advances in Differential Psychology Romer and Revelle (1984) A critique of the systematic distortion hypothesis
2b	Extraversion	Extraversion	Wilt and Revelle (2016) Extraversion Hans Eysenck	The personality coefficient
3a	Extraversion and affect	Extraversion and Affect	Wilt et al. 2007 Hans Eysenck: Personality theorist (Revelle, 2016) Smillie et al. 2012	Fleeson (2001)
4 a	Achievement Motivation	Achievement motivation Dynamic models	A model of performance History of dynamic models	Elliot and McGregor, 1999 Elliot and Thrash, 2010 Sommet and Elliot, 2017
5 5b	Anxiety Anxiety	Anxiety, Negative Affect Anxiety and Performance	The ABCDs of anxiety	(Rogers and Revelle, 1998)
6	Psychometrics	Introduction to psychometrics	Research Proposal due (delayed)	Introduction to R
6 b	Multiple r and R	Multiple R and R	Using R for personality	Getting started in R
7	Factor analysis and Reliability Theory	Factor analysis Classical test theory	Reliability from α to ω	How to use psych for FA Finding omega
8	The “New psychometrics”	Item Response Theory		Scoring scales
9	Measurement Cognitive Ability	Constructing and validating scales scale.constructionf Comparing levels of scale reduction PWAS Cognitive Ability	Validation using peer ratings (Zola et al., 2021) Revelle and Garner (2022) (Revelle et al., 2021) ICAR (Revelle et al., 2020)	Early SAPA Dworak et al. (2021)
10 10b	Final Projects	Proposals other areas	Pitfalls in research Kuncel and Sackett	
11	Course Review	Final project Scoring scales and analysis		
12	Reading week			

3 Daily detail— Still in progress

3.1 The structure of personality

1. Sept 21: [Revelle, Wilt and Condon \(2011\)](#) Individual differences and differential psychology: A brief history and prospect ([Revelle et al., 2011b](#))
[Revelle and Oehlberg \(2008\)](#) Integrating experimental and observational personality research ([Revelle, 2007](#))
See the recent paper in *Personality Science* on the strengths of personality research ([Atherton et al., 2021](#)).
2. Week 2: Sept 26; Taxonomic approaches to personality [Revelle \(1995\) Personality Processes: Annual Review of Psychology.](#) ([Goldberg, 1990, 1992](#))
Traits are facts, not fictions ([Romer and Revelle, 1984; Norman and Goldberg, 1966](#))
But perhaps rather than emphasizing the Big Few we should focus on the Many Little ([Condon et al., 2020; Möttus et al., 2020](#)).
The methods in personality are diverse ([Revelle et al., 2011a](#)).
3. Week 3: October 3: A major dimension of personality is [Extraversion](#) ([Wilt and Revelle, 2016, 2009](#)) how people differ in their approach behavior and their positive affect. Causal theories emphasized differences in rates of learning, differences in overall arousal ([Eysenck, 1967](#)) and to differences in sensitivity to cues for reward ([Gray, 1991; Corr, 2002, 2008](#)). How does acting extraverted make you happy ([McNiel and Fleeson, 2006; Smillie, 2013; Smillie et al., 2012](#))
4. Week 4: October 10: A non-biological approach is found in the study of [Achievement Motivation](#) which includes both static and [Dynamic models](#) of behavior ([Revelle and Wilt, 2021](#)) , Crucial studies have been done by Andrew Elliott and his colleagues ([Elliott and Thrash, 2002; Cury et al., 2006; Elliot and Thrash, 2010](#)) NOTE: There is no class on October 12
5. Week 5: October 17: Anxiety as an important dimension [Anxiety](#). Including a review by ([Wilt et al., 2011](#)) discussing the ABCDs of anxiety.
Do the dimensions of mood allow for an integration with the structure of traits?

3.2 Personality Measurement

- An introduction to issues in [psychometrics](#) How do we measure things? What is the correlation coefficient and why it is so useful?
6. Week 6: October 24: Continuing with correlation. The multiple correlation and problems of interpreting correlations.
Data reduction and theoretical clarity by using [Factor and components analysis](#).
 7. Week 7: October 31: How well do we measure things? The many questions of [Classical and modern reliability theory](#). [Revelle and Condon \(2019\)](#) is a useful overview of reliability theory. [Revelle and Garner \(2022\)](#) outline the steps in scale construction.
 8. Week 8: November 7th Why use R. The ability to report reproducible results [Using R-Markdown for reporting research](#)
 9. Week 9: The steps of personality measurement. Multiple ways to construct scales. Some early ([Revelle et al., 2010](#)) and recent ([Zola et al., 2021](#)), ([Revelle et al., 2021](#)) examples of validating personality measures. The study of cognitive ability is part of the study of personality ([Condon and Revelle, 2014; Revelle et al., 2020](#)), as is the study of interests.
 10. Week 10: Other areas of personality research. Several recent papers have been added: ([Del Giudice, 2023](#)) has a forthcoming article on a General Motivational Architecture, and [Beck and Jackson \(2022\)](#) has published an demonstration of idiographic measurement.

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