

PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

L33 Psych 4541

Professor Oltmanns (Fall, 2007)
Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00-11:30
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OVERVIEW: This course is an advanced seminar in the study of personality disorders. It will cover a range of conceptual and methodological issues involved in scientific efforts to understand ways in which pathological personality features disrupt people's lives. Students will learn about the similarities and distinctions between normal and pathological features of personality as well as the role that personality may play with regard to the causes and treatment of other kinds of mental disorder.

A laboratory component of the class will focus on the development of practical skills in conducting research interviews designed to elicit information about personality and social adjustment.

PREREQUISITES: Junior or senior standing and permission of the instructor. It is strongly recommended that students have previously completed courses in Abnormal Psychology and the Psychology of Personality.

GOALS: By the end of the course, you will develop an understanding of, or appreciation for, the following issues:

1. The description and identification of specific features of personality pathology viewed from the perspectives of both the official Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) and the Five Factor Model of personality.
2. The advantages and limitations of different ways of collecting information about the presence of personality pathology (e.g., semi-structured diagnostic interviews and objective personality questionnaires such as the NEO-PI-R).
3. The role of personality disorders in the development and maintenance of other forms of mental disorder, such as depression, substance dependence, and eating disorders.
4. Ways in which current theoretical perspectives regarding adaptive personality traits can be employed to advance knowledge of personality disorders.
5. Current thinking about developmental issues regarding changes in normal and abnormal personality features across the lifespan.
6. The connection between personality characteristics and various kinds of real world outcomes, including health status, social and occupational functioning, and so on.
7. The challenges and benefits of psychological approaches to the treatment of personality disorders.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC
Week 1 (Aug 29)	The DSM Personality Disorders
Week 2 (Sep 5)	Multivariate assessment paradigm
Week 3 (Sep 12)	Interpersonal assessment paradigm
Week 4 (Sep 19)	Normal and Abnormal Personality
Week 5 (Sep 26)	Evolutionary perspective
Week 6 (Oct 3)	Self-knowledge
Week 7 (Oct 10)	Personality and Depression
Week 8 (Oct 17)	Impact on interpersonal functioning
Week 9 (Oct 24)	Personality and health
Week 10 (Oct 31)	Continuity and change in normal personality
Week 11 (Nov 7)	Aging and personality disorders
Week 12 (Nov 14)	Longitudinal studies of personality disorders
Week 13 (Nov 21)	Long-term outcome in clinical samples
Week 14 (Nov 28)	Treatment of personality disorders
Week 15 (Dec 5)	Treatment of personality disorders

READINGS:

Millon, T. (2004). *Personality disorders and modern life* (2nd edition). New York: Wiley.

Segal, D.L., Coolidge, F.L., & Rosowsky, E. (2006). *Personality disorders and older adults: Diagnosis, assessment, and treatment*. New York: Wiley. Chapters 1-5.

Wiggins, J.S. (2003). *Paradigms of personality assessment*. New York: Guilford.

Strack, S. (2006). *Differentiating normal and abnormal personality* (2nd edition). New York: Springer. Chapters 1, 2, 7, and 13.

- Oltmanns, T.F., & Turkheimer, E. (2006). Perceptions of self and others regarding pathological personality traits. In R.F. Krueger and J.L. Tackett (Eds.). *Personality and psychopathology* (pp. 71-111). New York: Guilford.
- Shea, S.C. (1998). *Psychiatric interviewing: The art of understanding* (2nd edition). Philadelphia: Saunders. Chapter 7).
- Sommers-Flanagan, J., & Sommers-Flanagan, R. (2002). *Clinical interviewing* (3rd edition). New York: Wiley.
- Sapolsky, R.M. (2001). *A primate's memoir: A neuroscientist's unconventional life among the baboons*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Read Chapter 1 (pp. 13-24), 8 (pp. 95-104), 15 (pp. 169-175), and 22 (pp. 233-241).
- Wilson, T.D. (2002). *Strangers to ourselves: Discovering the adaptive unconscious*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Dunning, D., Heath, C., & Suls, J.M. (2004). Flawed self-assessment: Implications for health, education, and the workplace. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 5, 71-106.
- Paris, J. (2003). *Personality disorders over time: Precursors, course, and outcome*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.
- Pulkkinen, L., & Caspi, A. (2002). *Paths to successful development: Personality and the life course*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 11.
- Ozer, D.J., & Benet-Martinez, V. (2006). Personality and the prediction of consequential outcomes. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 57, 401-421.