

Psychology 315:

Laboratory in Personality Psychology

Fall 2017, Monday 12:45-2:15 pm, Hilles 204

Professor

- Jennifer Pals Lilgendahl
- Office: Sharpless 422
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Course Description

This course is intended to provide hands-on training in how to conduct research in the field of personality psychology. Through lab activities and class projects, students will learn about important methodological issues within the study of personality, including measurement, reliability and validity, different modes of data collection (self-report questionnaires, interviews and narratives, observational and experimental methods), and how to collect, analyze, and interpret personality data. Special attention will be given to a) different kinds of self-report data, including scales and narratives, and b) multivariate statistical analyses, which are useful for testing complex hypotheses about personality processes. The course will culminate with a group project that will involve designing and conducting a study to test your own original hypotheses about the dynamics of human personality.

Readings

There is no assigned textbook for this course. The readings for this course include:

- Select journal articles chosen to highlight various methodologies and methodological issues in personality research. These articles will be available on Moodle.
- Articles found during the process of conducting literature reviews for projects.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your final grade in this course will be determined by the following graded components, along with an overall assessment of your participation in lab (see below). I will first calculate a grade based on the following components and then I will decide whether to adjust your grade up or down a step (or keep it as is) based on your effort, attendance, and participation (see below).

- APA-style report on Project #1 (class project) = 30%
- Presentation on proposal for Project #2 (group project) = 10%
- Poster of findings for Project #2 (group project) = 15%
- APA-style final paper on Project #2 = 45%

Lab Participation

This is a very “hands-on” and group-oriented course that requires consistent attendance. Therefore, attendance is mandatory except when conflicts are discussed ahead of time. The evaluation of lab participation will be based on attendance, involvement in and preparedness for weekly activities, the effort you put into preparing for lab meetings each week, and your attitude toward and contribution to your group project.

Project #1: Class Project

The first of the two research projects you will conduct in this class will be a class project that we develop and conduct together as a class. We will develop the hypotheses together and analyze the data together in lab (details forthcoming). Your individual responsibility will be to write up an APA style report on the project. Your report will be due by 5 pm on Wednesday, 10/25.

Project #2: Group Project

The second half of the course will be devoted to breaking down into groups of 3-4 students (I will assign groups based on your interests) and conducting your own group project on any topic of interest to your group and relevant to personality. As a group, you will review the recent literature on a topic, develop a research question and testable hypotheses, develop the methodology you will use to test your hypotheses, present to the class on your proposal, collect and analyze your data, and create a poster to report your findings. As an individual, you will write your own APA style paper on your group's project, which will be your final assignment for the class.

Course Policies

- Attendance: This is a lab course that meets once a week – therefore, attendance is mandatory! If you have a conflict, you must let me know ahead of time, and it will only be excused if it is legitimate conflict. Failing to attend without prior permission will have a detrimental effect on your final grade.
- Late work: The two main assignments are the two APA style papers. For the first one, your grade will be reduced one step for each day that it is late. The final paper is due at the very end of finals, so any extension beyond the due date will have to be arranged through your dean. All other work is group work and I expect it to be done on time.
- Hard copies: You must turn in your papers in hard copy (and stapled!). I will not accept electronic copies of papers unless such arrangements have been made ahead of time.

Accommodations for disabilities

Haverford College is committed to supporting the learning process for all students. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are having difficulties in the course. There are also many resources on campus available to you as a student, including the Office of Academic Resources (<https://www.haverford.edu/oar/>) and the Office of Access and Disabilities Services (<https://www.haverford.edu/ads/>). If you think you may need accommodations because of a disability, please contact Sherrie Borowsky, Coordinator of Accommodations, Office of Access and Disability Services at hc-ads@haverford.edu. If you have already been approved to receive academic accommodations and would like to request accommodations in this course because of a disability, please meet with me privately at the beginning of the semester (*within the first two weeks if possible*) with your verification letter.

PERSONALITY LAB SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS
9/6	Special make-up session for first week; overview of course		
9/11	Self-report data I: Personality scales; the “Big Five” traits	Paulhus & Vazire (2007): The Self-Report Method	Review basics of SPSS -- analyze scale data
9/18	Self-report data II: Narrative identity and self-defining memories	McAdams & McLean (2013); Adler et al (2017)	Self-defining memory coding exercise
9/25	How do traits and narratives relate to one another?		Develop specific hypotheses for Project #1 – traits and narratives
10/2	Project #1: Memory coding / reliability analysis		Finish memory coding and reliability analysis during the upcoming week
10/9	How to analyze and write up Project #1 data: APA style and correlational analyses		Use SPSS to analyze data from Project #1; print outputs to use to write report
	<i>Fall Break</i>		
10/23	Answer questions about Project #1 papers; discuss remainder of semester		
	Project #1 papers due by 5 pm on Wednesday, 10/25		
10/30	Multivariate analyses: Mediation and moderation	Readings TBA	Overview of Project #2; meet in groups in lab and during upcoming week to start brainstorming ideas
11/6	Lab session dedicated to working on Project #2 proposals	Lit review for project	Jen will meet with each group / meet with Jen outside of lab during upcoming week if necessary
11/13	Learn how to set up on-line survey in Qualtrics / work on getting survey ready		Outside of lab, begin collecting data once Jen approves study and Qualtrics survey
11/20	Presentations of hypotheses and methodology		Data collection
11/27	Data analysis / poster making		
12/4	Data analysis / poster making		
12/11	Class poster session		
	Final papers due by noon on Friday, 12/22		

