Class code: PSYCH-UA 9030.001

Instructor Details: Sophie von Stumm

Thursdays 1-2pm (by previous appointment only). Venue to be confirmed but near or in NYUL.

Class Details: Personality & Individual Differences

Thursdays from 10am to 1pm.

Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites: None

Class Description: This course covers the core questions of research in Personality and Individual Differences: How and why do individuals differ? What are the methods used to study individual differences? What is personality? What factors influence personality? How stable is personality? Can personality be used to predict real-world outcomes, like mental health, work performance, educational achievement, and romantic relationships?

The format of the course will be lectures, presentations and class discussions. There will also be a field trip.

Desired Outcomes:
1. Understanding the core dimensions of individual differences that describe differences and similarities between and within people.
2. Understanding core research methods, including longitudinal, experimental and survey study designs, as well as the basic principles of psychometrics.
3. Understanding associations between latent individual differences and directly observable real-life outcomes.

Assessment Components:
- Two written essays (each 800 words; the first one counts 10%, the second one 30% of the overall grade), one oral presentation in class (10 minutes; worth 20%), a 1-hour final exam paper (worth 20%), and one group research project by presentation (20 minutes; worth 20% - the mark for the group project is the same for all members of the group).

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations:
- Grade A: Excellent and flawless execution of the task with a clearly distinguishable unique contribution by the student.
- Grade B: Good execution of the task but with room for improvement.
Grade C: Mediocre and faulty execution of the task.

Grade D: Poor execution of the task.

Grade F: Task not adequately addressed at all.

Expectations specific to each assignment will be discussed in class.


Supplementary readings will be recommended in class.

Students are strongly encouraged to use “PsycInfo” via the NYU electronic library: [http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/l5ng.pl?current_tab=221](http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/l5ng.pl?current_tab=221). The essays and group projects should be partially based on journal articles, so PsycInfo is very important.

None

| Session 1 | Introduction to Individual Differences  
Discussion of Assignments |
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| Session 2 | Research Methods in Individual Differences  
Reading: [http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/contents.php](http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/contents.php) |
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<th>Session 3</th>
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| Session 5 | Assessment of Personality  
Core session for essay 1  
Essay 1 question: How can personality traits be measured and assessed? |
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| Session 6 | Validity of Personality  
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<td>Classroom Etiquette</td>
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<td>Required Co-curricular Activities</td>
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Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Reading.

Your Instructor

Sophie von Stumm completed her PhD in 2010, and she is now a Lecturer in Psychology at Goldsmiths University of London. She has taught at a variety of UK universities, including University College London and University of Edinburgh. Sophie’s research interests are the causes and consequences of individual differences in lifespan cognitive development. Specifically, she explores how personality traits – in particular so-called investment traits – affect childhood cognitive growth, adult intelligence (e.g. academic performance and knowledge attainment), and cognitive aging. In 2013, Sophie received the Early Career Award from the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences (ISSID) in recognition of her contribution to individual differences research.

NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics,
graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the 'file' icon in the 'content' column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during **office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by emailing abences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) **0800 316 0469** (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuC5k. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**
Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.