

Course Code	HP4051
Course Title	Laboratory in Personality and Individual Differences
Pre-requisites	HP1000 Introduction to Psychology HP1100 Fundamentals of Social Science Research HP2500 Personality and Individual Differences
No of AUs	4

Course Aims

This course will focus on the practical use of concepts, methodologies, and tools needed in evaluating and designing personality and individual differences empirical research. We will cover a variety of topics in measurement, instrument choice and design, hypothesis development and testing, and data preparation and manipulation, including statistical issues, tools for conducting personality and individual differences studies, and study design and evaluation methods.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Develop a research question from a personality and individual differences perspective and frame testable hypotheses
2. Identify, describe, and critique some of the key types of study designs used in personality and individual differences research
3. Evaluate key issues in assessment and measurement of personality and individual differences, using the concepts of reliability, validity, control, generalizability, and ethics
4. Describe the general guidelines for conducting qualitative and non-experimental research in personality and individual differences research
5. List the issues involved in responsible writing and reporting in psychology, e.g., adherence to APA style and forms of plagiarism
6. Complete an ethics review application
7. Design and conduct basic empirical studies to answer a variety of research questions in issues of personality psychology and individual differences
8. Critique methodologies of other empirical studies in personality psychology
9. Use standard descriptive and inferential statistical procedures in SPSS to analyze primary data
10. Write a report and give a presentation on a piece of empirical work describing the key method and assessment issues that are relevant to the field of personality and individual differences

Course Content

The course is organized along the following topics:

1. What are the scientific perspectives, research questions, and hypotheses typical of personality science
2. Hypothesis development
3. Key study designs and measurement issues in personality science
4. Evaluating research in terms of reliability and validity, control, generalizability, and ethics
5. Non-experimental and qualitative methods in personality science
6. APA style, plagiarism, writing and responsible reporting of research
7. Statistical procedures and data analysis in SPSS
8. Good writing and presentation practices

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/Individual
1. Continuous Assessment 1 (CA1): Group presentation	1-10	Competence, Communication, creativity, character	15%	Team
2. CA2: homework assignments	1-10	Competence, Communication, creativity, character	60%	Team (homeworks 3-9) and individual (homeworks 1 and 2)
3. CA3: final group written report	10	Competence, Communication, creativity, character	25%	Team
Total			100%	

Formative feedback

You will receive feedback on their recall of key material and on their ability to describe and apply key material during the whole semester by way of the homework assignments. The homework assignments also allow you to gain feedback on their writing ability as they are given the chance for individualized meetings with the instructor to gain additional feedback on their writing and clarity of expression. You will also receive feedback on your understanding of key concepts and on your ability to integrate these concepts in the group presentation and final report. Finally, you will receive feedback from both the instructor and your fellow classmates on their ability to communicate research findings during your group presentations.

Learning and Teaching approach

Approach	How does this approach support students in achieving the learning outcomes?
Face to face lecture	The lecture explains in-depth the key concepts and content that you need to learn, thus addressing learning outcomes 1-9
Final group written report	The final group written report allows you to integrate the content that was explained in the lecture into an application, and thus addressing learning outcomes 1-10
Group presentation	The article presentation allows you to integrate the content learnt in lecture into an application, thus addressing learning outcome 1-10
Homework assignments	The assignments allow you to check their understanding (and gaps in their knowledge) about the content that was explained in the lecture, as well as making first drafts of their report and presentation content, thus addressing learning outcomes 1-10.

Reading and References

McBurney, D.H. & White, T.L. Research Methods (8th International Ed.) Cengage Learning.

Tesser, A. (2000). Theories and Hypotheses. *In* Guide to publishing in psychology journals. Sternberg, Robert J. (Ed.) Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press.Pp.58-79

Bem, D. J. (2004). *In The compleat academic: A career guide* (2nd ed.). Darley, John M. (Ed.); Zanna, Mark P. (Ed.); Roediger, Henry L. III (Ed.); Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association, 2004. pp. 185-219.

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for course sessions they have missed. You are expected to participate in all lecture discussions and activities.

(2) Absenteeism

In-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for in-class activities.

(3) Assignments

You are required to submit the nine homework assignments on due dates. There will be a late penalty of .5 mark per calendar day.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Scientific perspectives, research questions, and hypothesis development	1	Tesser, A. (2000). Theories and Hypotheses. <i>In</i> Guide to publishing in psychology journals. Sternberg, Robert J. (Ed.) Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press.Pp.58-79
2	Study design and hypothesis development and testing	2	McBurney & White Chapters 2 & 5
3	Measurement issues: reliability, validity	3	McBurney & White Chapters 7,8,11, & 14
4	Planning the study and ethical considerations	3	McBurney & White Chapter 3
5	Non-experimental and qualitative methods: survey research, interviews, small group interactions, field observations, content coding, and archival techniques	4	McBurney & White Chapters 9 & 10
6	"What is plagiarism?" AND Primer on APA style	5	Group meetings with instructor this week. All groups will have meetings with instructor this week to discuss the progress of group projects.
7	Writing the research paper	5	Bem, D. J. (2004). In <i>The compleat academic: A career guide</i> (2nd ed.). Darley, John M. (Ed.); Zanna, Mark P. (Ed.); Roediger, Henry L. III (Ed.); Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association, 2004. pp. 185-219.

			Students will complete web tutorial on APA style in their own time: http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx
8	Statistical procedures using SPSS I (and data collection session 1)	7-9	Class will meet in stats lab
9	Statistical procedures using SPSS II (and data collection session 2)	7-9	Class will meet in stats lab
10	Issues in data analysis and statistics workshop (and data collection session 3)	7-9	Class will meet in stats lab
11	Guidelines for presenting data and reporting results; critiquing a journal article	5	McBurney & White Chapter 6
12	Group presentations	10	Group presentations Group meetings with instructor this week. All groups will have meetings with instructor this week to discuss the progress of the written reports.
13	End of semester review of material	1-9	End of semester review of material Group meetings with instructor this week. All groups will have meetings with instructor this week to discuss the progress of the written reports.