

Using Lectures You May Already Have Prepared As a Basis for Teaching this Course

This section is for instructors who have taught personality psychology and other related courses (Intro, Social, Abnormal) in the past and who would like to use some or all of their existing lectures as they teach this course for the first time. (The other alternative is to use the power-point lectures we supply, or a combination of these two approaches). It is, indeed, possible – and sometimes advisable – to start this way.

This chapter assumes that many people have taught the course before and have used a theoretical perspectives approach to teach personality. By theoretical perspectives approach is meant that you have taught, for example, about the psychodynamic perspective, the trait perspective, the humanistic perspective, the socio-cognitive perspective, and so on.

Even if you have not done that however, you may find this chapter useful if you have ever taken such a course, or if you have some familiarity with related courses such as Introductory Psychology, Social Psychology, Tests and Measures, and/or Abnormal Psychology.

This chapter identifies key lectures commonly given in personality psychology and allied fields, and shows how they can be used as a basis for developing the personality course designed in this fashion. For example, let's say you have taught (or taken) the personality course. In such a course, instructors might have developed the following lectures as part of the coverage of the psychodynamic approach:

- Freud as an historical figure
- The conscious, preconscious, and unconscious
- The id, the ego, and the superego
- Defense mechanisms, and,
- Psychosexual stages of development, including the Oedipal complex

PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY: A SYSTEMS APPROACH uses a different, more integrated approach to the field, dividing it into four topics: (a) Introduction to personality, (b) personality's parts, (c) organization, and (d) development. Although the organization is different, a substantial portion of its coverage overlaps with that of a theories book, as illustrated by the topics above.

In re-organizing material, therefore, some of the above lectures are retained as-is, others are divided in two, and still others are dropped. Continuing with the example of lectures related to the psychodynamic approach:

- Freud's place as an historical figure is covered in the first chapter.
- Discussions of the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious occur in Chapter 7 on the Conscious Self. That chapter contains a section on "Levels of Consciousness," in which the Freud's material serves as an organizing template in a somewhat updated cognitive framework..
- The id, the ego, and the superego are discussed in Chapter 8, on personality structure.
- Defense mechanisms are discussed in Chapter 10, on Dynamics of the Self. Finally, Erik Erikson's Psychosocial stages of development are used in the Chapters on development (Chapters 11 and 12), with only a brief mention of Freud's original psychosexual stages.

To get you started quickly, the next section provides a list of the 12 chapters of the book. After each chapter is a list of commonly-used lectures in psychology, that can be used as a starting basis for covering the chapter.

A note to the beginning instructor: Many (perhaps, most) instructors would find it best to develop lectures from only one or two topics they were most familiar with for each chapter. It is not necessary to cover all of a given chapter; let the book do the rest.

Common Lectures in Personality Psychology and Adjoining Fields, Arranged by Chapter

Chapter 1: What Is Personality?

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style courses on personality:

- Defining personality
- Overview of the field of personality psychology
- Brief history of the field of personality psychology

Chapter 2: Evaluating Personality Research

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style courses on personality:

- Case studies, correlation, and experiments*
- Reliability and validity of psychological tests*
- Factor analysis of traits*

*Also from courses on Introductory psychology and Measurement

Chapter 3: Perspectives On Personality

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style courses:

- Introduction to the evolutionary approach
- Introduction to the biological approach
- Introduction to the psychodynamic approach
- Introduction to the behavioral approach
- Introduction to the trait approach
- Introduction to the humanistic approach
- Introduction to the socio-cognitive approach
- Introduction to the cross-cultural approach

Chapter 4: Motivation and Emotion in Personality

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Murray's TAT and projective measures of motivation
- Eysenck's model of Neuroticism and Extraversion

Lectures that can be transferred from courses on social psychology, introductory psychology, and evolutionary psychology

- Ekman's cross-cultural studies on faces

Chapter 5: Interior Selves; Interior Worlds

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Kelly's personal constructs
- Jung's archetypes
- Markus' possible selves
- Higgins' ideal and actual selves

Lectures that can be transferred from social psychology courses:

- Lectures on person perception
- Lectures on attitudes and beliefs

Chapter 6: Mental Abilities and Skills

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Adler's creative personality
- Amabile, Torrance, and others on creativity

Lectures that can be transferred or modified from other courses:

- Standard lecture on IQ and intelligence tests

Chapter 7: The Conscious Self

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Freud's ego; Jung's ego
- Free will versus determinism
- James' self-as-knower
- Dissociative identity disorder

Lectures that can be transferred from other courses such as abnormal psychology:

- Dissociative identity disorder

Chapter 8: How the Parts of Personality Fit Together

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Eysenck's three-part model of traits
- The Big Five
- MacLean's Triune brain
- Freud's id, ego, and superego
- Mischel's model of social interaction
- The conscious and unconscious; levels of consciousness

Chapter 9: The Dynamics of Motivated Action

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style courses on personality:

- Murray on the interaction of motives
- Personal strivings; personal projects
- Manifest versus latent aspects of behavior

Lectures that can be transferred from courses on social psychology:

- Symbolic interactionism
- Role playing
- Machiavellianism

Chapter 10: The Dynamics of Self-Control

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Freud's mechanisms of defense
- Hypnotic phenomena
- Auto-suggestion

Lectures that can be transferred from other courses such as introductory psychology

- Feedback loops
- Self-related biases in judgment

- Dissociation

Chapter 11: Personality Development in Childhood and Adolescence

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Erikson's eight stages of development
- Attachment theory
- Birth order
- The identity crisis

Lectures that can be transferred from other courses such as social and developmental psychology:

- Friendships among children
- Parenting styles

Chapter 12: Personality Development in Adulthood

Lectures that can be transferred from perspectives-style personality courses:

- Erikson's later stages of development
- Levinson's stages of adult development
- Maslow's self-actualized person

Lectures that can be transferred from courses in adult development, tests and measures, counseling, and social psychology

- Relationships and marriage
- Occupational types and occupational assessment