

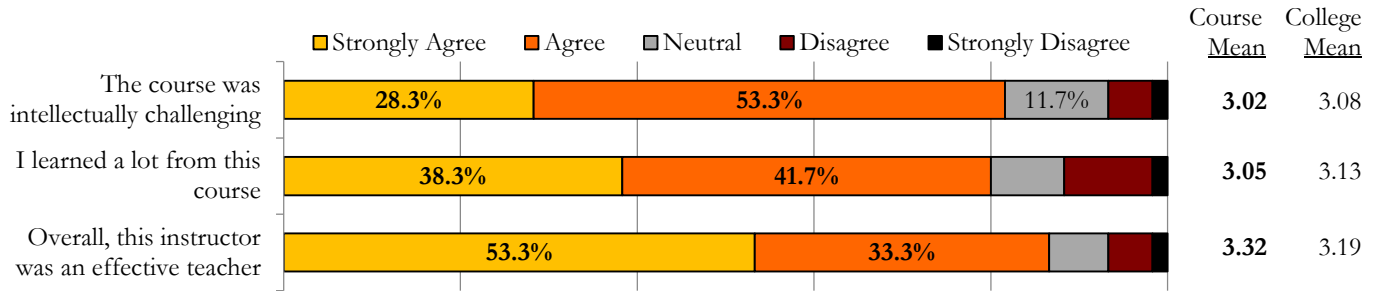
Course Profile

PSYC 210: A Gentle Introduction to Temperament & Personality

Course Description	<p><i>What makes each of us unique? Where do these differences come from? How do they contribute to persistent differences in health and wellness?</i> This course provides a gentle introduction to the scientific study of temperament and personality (T&P), with a major focus on the genetic and brain systems underlying individual differences in Positive Emotionality, Negative Emotionality, and Self-Control. A background in biology, genetics, neuroscience, statistics, or other 'STEM' fields not necessary to succeed.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students who successfully complete this course will understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The mechanisms that underlie stability and plasticity in T&P across the lifespan and across generations• The strengths and limitations of different tools for quantifying T&P• The impact of T&P on health and wellbeing
Syllabus	<p>The Syllabus can be downloaded here.</p>
Course Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x 75-minute meetings per week.• 70-110 students per term (1 T/A).
Course Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminal reports and landmark reviews written by the most exciting researchers working in the field today• Essays, commentaries, and interviews drawn from the popular press• All readings are available via the course website on Canvas• ‘Snack with Shack, Man’ offers students an opportunity to develop a personal relationship with the instructor and receive guidance on professional development
Class Meetings	<p>Each meeting begins with a conceptual roadmap outlining the fundamental questions that we, as a class, will wrestle with for the next 75 minutes (e.g. <i>We have been brain-washed by our culture to think in terms of heritability, to blame the genes of a family or a race—But what are the limitations of heritability? Why do we so often succumb to temptation—Why is there such a tension between what we do and what we want to do?</i>).</p> <p>The body of the lecture describes the current state of the science, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. Lectures incorporate case histories, examples from the popular media, and film clips, with plenty of time for questions and discussion (classroom, small groups, and pair-and-share). Each meeting ends with a recap of the most important take-home points. Written Learning Objectives, in-class review sessions, and written assignments reinforce key points. Many assignments provide opportunities to critically synthesize material covered in class with students' own experiences or to explore hands-on demos and exercises.</p>
Learning Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-class, clicker-based learning checks• Low-stakes written assignments for each lecture or module• 3-4 cumulative, multiple-choice examinations• Live or pre-recorded oral presentation (‘flash talks’)

Student Evaluations

Spring 2016 - 60 of 83 (72.3%) responding



Complete evaluations are available upon request.