



## Personality Disorders (PSYD32 – Fall 2015)

**Instructor:** Lisa Fiksenbaum, Ph.D

**Class Time and Location:** Wednesdays 3:00-5:00pm in Humanities Wing, Room 408

**Office Hours and Location:** By Appointment: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm in TBA

**Office Phone:** TBA

**Email:** lisa.fiksenbaum@utsc.utoronto.ca

**Make sure when you send email that you include:**

- a. your name and student number
- b. either the course number (i.e., PSYD32) or course title (i.e., Personality Disorders) in the subject line of the email.

**Textbook:** O'Donohue, W., Fowler, K. A., & Lilienfeld, S. O. (2007). Personality disorders: Toward the DSM-5. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

\*\* Please note: Course announcements will be made through Blackboard. Students are responsible for monitoring the course website regularly for important announcements and updates\*\*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Individuals with a personality disorder often display rigid and maladaptive traits, thinking and reacting behaviors that frequently disrupt their personal, professional, and social lives. Over the past few years, there has been considerable debate about the efficacy and validity of the current personality disorder categories. The DSM-5 considered changing the classification of personality disorders, yet these changes were not implemented in the main text of the manual. The purpose of this seminar course is to expose students to an in-depth understanding of current knowledge of personality disorders, from conceptual and theoretical concerns to the practical problems faced by assessing clinicians. Topics to be addressed include historical considerations of personality disorders, clinical presentations, diagnostic challenges, epidemiology, patterns of comorbidity, theoretical models, assessment strategies, and intervention models. Not only should students be aware of the classification of personality in the DSM-5, but they should also consider alternative diagnostic classifications for the disorders.

Given that this is a seminar course, students are encouraged and expected to participate in class discussion. Such participation, of course, requires that students have read the required material assigned for each class.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the diagnostic criteria for personality disorders according to the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)
- Identify how personality disorders should be conceptualized, assessed and diagnosed in clinical practice based on the latest research findings
- Identify the key causes and most effective treatments for personality disorders based on the latest research findings
- Understand the controversies that surround the personality disorders, including claims that gender and ethnic/racial bias impact the interpretation of them.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Term Paper: 35%

Term Paper Proposal: 5%

Oral Presentation: 20%

Mid-term Exam: 25%

Class Attendance & Participation: 10%

Peer Evaluation of Student Presentations: 5%

### Term Paper

Your term paper will involve researching a contemporary and major issue that is relevant to personality disorders and is of interest to you. Your paper should be approximately 12 double-spaced pages in length, excluding the title page and reference list. Papers must follow the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and citation style guidelines (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Sample term paper topics may include:

- What can be learned from the longitudinal study of personality disorders?
- What evidence is there to support the proposed structure of the Personality Inventory for the DSM-5 (PID-5)?
- Are we overlooking personality disorders in older adults?
- Are personality disorders Western clinical entities?
- Comparison of personality disorders models

Prior to submission of the paper, please submit a proposal (worth 5% of your grade) outlining the topic and the basic structure of the paper (e.g., which arguments you will consider), and noting the significance of your topic to the area of personality disorders (the proposal will be approximately 1-2 pages). You should submit your proposal/outline no later than October 7. The final paper, which is due on the last day of classes, will be graded based on depth of thinking, clarity of arguments, ability to analyze and synthesize a range of resources in order to develop your own position, and organization. I encourage you to exchange your paper with a peer and provide one another with constructive feedback prior to turning in your paper.

### Oral Presentation

You will each conduct an in-class PowerPoint presentation based on the topic covered in your paper. This presentation will be 15 minutes in length followed by a few minutes for questions. The presentation will be graded based on clarity of the arguments presented, structure and organization, ability to integrate multiple perspectives yet still present a clear thesis, and evidence of understanding of the complexities of the issue. Please submit a copy of the slides to the instructor on the day of your presentation.

### Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term will cover material presented in lectures (including power point and video presentations) and related course readings. The midterm will be composed of all course material will include multiple choice and short answer. No study aids will be permitted during the test.

### Peer Evaluation of Student Presentations

For each presentation, students will rate their peers using the evaluation form that will be posted on Blackboard. In addition to filling out the evaluation forms for each speaker, each student will be required to come up with at least one thoughtful question or comment. While students will put their names on the evaluation form, this information will not be shared with the presenter. Instead a tally of the numbers and summary of the comments may be available to the speaker if requested.

Class Participation and Attendance will be assessed by contributions to in-class discussions and weekly attendance.

### Weekly Topics, Readings, and Important Dates

*(Please note: The class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances)*

Week	Date	Topic
1.	September 9	Introduction, review of syllabus and what are personality disorders? Reading: Chapter 1 – Personality Disorders in Perspective
2.	September 16	Toward the DSM-5 & Alternative Model for Personality Disorder (DSM-5, Section 3); Reading: Chapter 2 – Alternatives to DSM-IV: Axis II
3.	September 23	YOM KIPPUR – NO CLASS
4.	September 30	Research Strategies & Models of Personality Disorders and Pathology
5.	October 7 <b>Term Proposal Due</b>	Paranoid, Schizoid, & Schizotypal Personality Disorder
6.	October 14	READING WEEK
7.	October 21	Borderline Personality Disorder
8.	October 28	Mid-Term Exam
9.	November 4	Narcissistic & Histrionic Personality Disorder
10.	November 11	Avoidant Dependent & Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
11.	November 18	Student Presentations
12.	November 25	Student Presentations
13.	December 2 <b>Final Paper Due</b>	Student Presentations

#### The Writing Centre:

Your performance in this class will depend in large part upon your ability to communicate clearly and effectively. The Writing Centre supports student learning at any stage in the writing process, from planning an outline to polishing a final draft. Their services include online resources, drop-in hours, one-to-one consultations, and writing workshops. Additional information can be found at:  
<http://ctl.utoronto.ca/twc/main>

#### Plagiarism

Please review this website which describes tips on how not to plagiarize:  
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

You will submit your final written report to the turnitin.com site. Turnitin.com is a tool that assists in detecting textual similarities between compared works (i.e., it is an electronic resource that assists in the detection and deterrence of plagiarism). Detailed instructions on setting up your account can be found at <http://www.turnitin.com>.

The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

You must submit an electronic copy of your final paper through Turnitin.com. All submissions midnight or later will be counted as late submissions. Steps for you to set up your own account and submit papers

are described on this web site: <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>

#### Accessibility:

If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Access Ability Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and Access Ability Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC Access Ability Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

#### Video and Auditory Recording:

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld."

#### Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

#### **In papers and assignments:**

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

#### **On tests and exams:**

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity

#### **In academic work:**

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

Policies for this Course Regarding Grading, Late Assignments and Missed Presentations:

**Grading:**

Any complaint about grading on any course evaluation should be made in writing within one week of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

**Late Assignments:**

If you do not have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each late day (this includes any time after the deadline, so please be sure to submit your assignments well in advance of the specified deadlines).

If you provide legitimate documentation for your late assignment (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you must contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss a new deadline for your late assignment(s).

Please take note of the last day for submission of term assignments (as set by the University). If you wish to submit work to be graded beyond the last day for submission of term assignments, you must contact the Registrar's office to submit a petition (this is beyond the instructor's control).

**Missed Presentation:**

If you miss your presentation without legitimate documentation, you will receive a mark of zero.

If you provide legitimate documentation for your missed examination (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you will be given one additional opportunity to make your presentation.

**Medical Documentation:**

Any medical documentation that you provide must indicate the date (s) that you needed to be excused from course work, which must include the date of the presentation and/or assignment(s) that you missed. You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed examination. Only documentation from a doctor registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario will be accepted (as per the UTSC Medical Certificate).

The form for medical documentation can be found at the following link:

[http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf\\_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf)

Please Note: The UTSC Medical Certificate must be signed by a registered member in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

### Grade Scales and Meaning of Grades

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90-100	A+	4.0
85-89	A	4.0
80-84	A-	3.7
77-79	B+	3.3
73-76	B	3.0
70-72	B-	2.7
67-79	C+	2.3
63-67	C	2.0
60-62	C-	1.7
57-59	D+	1.3
53-56	D	1.0
50-52	D-	0.7
0-49	F	0