



## **Personality Psychology (PSYB30 – Winter 2018)**

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

**Class Time and Location:** Wednesdays 2:00-5:00pm in AC223

**Office Hours and Location:** By Appointment

**Email:** [lisa.fiksenbaum@utoronto.ca](mailto:lisa.fiksenbaum@utoronto.ca)

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

- a. your name and student number
- b. either the course number (i.e., PSYB30) or course title (i.e., Personality) in the subject line of the email.

**Teaching Assistants:**

- 1) Allison Eades
- 2) Greg Williams

**TA Email:** [psyb30utsc2018@gmail.com](mailto:psyb30utsc2018@gmail.com)

**T.A. office hour information to be provided on Blackboard.**

**Communication with the Instructor and TA:** Complex questions are typically easier to answer face-to-face, rather than via e-mail. In addition to the instructor, the TA is a great resource and will be able to provide you with answers to many of your questions. The TA works in close contact with the instructor and will refer matters if they cannot resolve them for you. We take your questions very seriously and want to facilitate learning. We always try to get back to you as soon as we can. This can be challenging due to the size of the class, especially around exam times. So please make sure to allow at least 48 hours for us to reply, particularly just prior to exams when student requests tend to be high. Questions that have already been answered in the course syllabus, in lecture slides, or on Blackboard will not receive a response.

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

**Prerequisites:** PSYA01H & PSYA02H

**Exclusion:** PSY230H

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to give a broad introduction to the theory and research in the scientific study of personality psychology. This course is organized around six domains of personality functioning – dispositional, biological, intrapsychic, cognitive/ experiential, socio-cultural, and adjustment, and examines the theories and research within the context of each of the domains.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The format of this course is primarily lectures accompanied by active, in-class discussions and activities (wherever possible) that utilize various multimedia platforms (including video clips, movies, thought-provoking images, etc.). A preliminary set of lecture slides/notes will be posted on the website prior to each lecture. The slides are intended as visual aids to complement the lecture. It is recommended that you take your own notes in class, using the slides as an outline.

**Textbook:** Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2017). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

**Note about using older editions: It is not recommended that you use older editions of the textbook. Although much of the material is the same, you may be tested on more recent research findings in the field.**

Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify the goals of personality psychology.
- Review research and assessment methods in personality psychology.
- Compare and contrast diverse theoretical perspectives on personality.
- Discuss the associations between personality and psychological and social functioning.

**Course Requirements:** Students will be given 2 equally weighted exams, which will consist of multiple choice questions. Please bring an HB pencil and an eraser to each exam to allow for electronic scoring of the multiple-choice questions.

Students have the **option** of completing Connect weekly assignments. *Connect course* is an online learning resource, designed by the textbook publisher, which is intended to improve learning by increasing students' effort and engagement. If students **opt-in** and participate in *Connect course* weekly assignments, these assignments will account for 6% of your final grade, and each exam will be account for 47% of your final grade.

Examinations are **non-cumulative**. The exams will cover both lecture and textbook material. The purpose of the lecture is to amplify, explain, and expand upon the textbook material. Although there will be overlap between the lectures and the textbook, there will also be material that will be covered in the lectures that is not part of the textbook. Furthermore, some material from the textbook will not be discussed in class. This means that to be successful in this course you must carefully read the text and attend the lectures.

Examinations will be given on published dates only. Exceptions will be made in the case of medical problems, in which case a doctor's note is required. Exceptions will also be made for students who have religious obligations that conflict with an exam date. If you are unable to write an exam due to medical problems, please contact me before the exam or within 24 hours after the exam. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours after the exam will be assigned a grade of "0" on the exam.

**Final Exam Policies & Procedures.** The scheduling of final exams and the granting of petitions to defer final exams are matters that fall entirely within the jurisdiction of the Registrar's Office. If you have any concerns relating to your final exam attendance, please contact the Registrar.

**Please note that there are NO opportunities for extra credit to improve your grade at any time during this course or once the course is over.**

### Tentative Weekly Topics and Readings

Week	Topic	Chapter	Connect Due Date
1.	Review of syllabus Introduction to Personality	1	
2.	Assessment and Research Methods	2	Ch 1 – Jan. 14 (11:59pm)
3.	Traits & Trait Taxonomies Personality Dispositions Over Time	3, 4 & 5	Ch 2 – Jan. 21 (11:59pm)
4.	Genetics & Physiology	6	Ch 3, & 4 – Jan. 28 (11:59pm)
5.	Physiological Perspectives of Personality	7	Ch 5 & 6 – Feb. 4 (11:59pm)
6.	Mid-term exam		Ch. 7 - Feb. 11 (11:59pm)
7.	READING WEEK – NO CLASS		
8.	Psychoanalytic Perspectives	9 & 10	Ch. 9 & 10 – March 4 (11:59pm)
9.	Motives, Needs, and Goals	11	Ch. 11 – March 11 (11:59pm)
10.	Emotion and Personality	13	Ch. 13 – March 18 (11:59pm)
11.	Gender and Personality	16	Ch. 16 – March 25 (11:59pm)
12.	Culture and Personality	17	Ch. 17 – April 1 (11:59pm)
13.	Personality Disorders	19	Ch. 19 – April 8 (11:59pm)

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

<sup>1</sup>Please Note: This schedule is tentative. The Registrar typically finalizes the term test schedule sometime during the first few weeks of class, so the date of the mid-term exam could be on any of the following dates (Feb. 2, 9, or 23). As soon as we are provided the schedule for the term test dates, times, and locations, we will post this information on the Course Blackboard.

#### 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.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work (this includes assignments and midterm exams) must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, within three (3) business days of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental Request for Missed Term Work form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an original copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of other emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered.

Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

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