

Course Outline

PSYB30H3S L01

Introduction to Personality

Winter 2019

Course Meets: Wednesdays from 2–5pm in AC 223

Instructor: Dr. Shona Tritt
E-Mail: shona.tritt@mail.utoronto.ca
Webpage: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>
Office Hours: Office hours will be held in-person on Wednesdays from 12-1:30pm in room 123 of PO103; Online office hours will also be held via Skype on Fridays from 9-9:30am. My Skype name is shonatritt17. Feel free to add me and call me during these hours. You can also send me an email if you would prefer to connect over the phone and I will give you a call during online office hours.

Teaching Assistants: Tara Gralnick; email: tara.gralnick@mail.utoronto.ca
Allison Eades; email: allison.eades@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Scope and Mission

People tend to define themselves and others by the enduring traits (patterns of behavior, emotion, motivation, and thoughts) that differentiate them. In this course, we survey theory and research that has accumulated over the years, which has explored the root causes and consequences of individual differences in personality, as well as the malleability of personality. In so doing, I expect that you will gain a better understanding of the nature of personality – where it comes from and what its consequences are, potentially gaining a better understanding of yourself and others.

Required Readings

Larsen, R. J., Buss, D. King, D., Ensley, C. (Eds.) (2017). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature, 1st Canadian Edition*. McGraw-Hill Education.

- A hard copy or e-copy of the textbook may be purchased through means most convenient for you (e.g., online or at the U of T book store).
- An e-copy of the text is available for purchase with a code for McGraw Hill Connect at the U of T bookstore or directly through connect. See the powerpoint slides posted on Quercus for directions on how to purchase.

Course Webpage/ Quercus

I will use Quercus to communicate with you. The syllabus, lecture slides, answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), etc. will all be posted on Quercus. Quercus is also the place you go to log-on to and participate in the discussion board. I recommend getting acquainted with Quercus and checking it on a regular basis throughout the semester for announcements and messages. You do not need to apply for Quercus access. If you are registered, you will automatically see this class when you log-on to <https://q.utoronto.ca> Once you've logged in, you'll be in your "Dashboard" and you should see a "Course Card" for each of the courses you are enrolled in. Click on the "Course Card" to access this course, and voila you have access!

Discussion Forum

Our class-size is too large to host an effective in-class discussion about the complex issues that we will be addressing in this course. I've therefore created a discussion forum on Quercus,

which should give each of you an outlet to voice your opinions and so that you can read about the opinions of your classmates. The discussion board is also intended to help you to integrate and to think deeply about the course material, which should enhance your learning experience – and may also be intrinsically rewarding.

I will pose discussion questions in class lectures, which I will then post to Quercus for you to answer. Please feel free to post your own discussion points and questions – I would love to hear what you think about the lecture material and I'm sure that your classmates would too.

Some important points to consider when posting:

- Discussions of personality can generate strong feelings and I ask that you always be respectful of others even when you disagree with them.
- Excellent posts go beyond the information in the book or readings by relating what is learned in this class to other classes, to authoritative sources found in other books or the internet.
- Many folks may post clarification questions. These posts are valuable because they may echo many people's concerns. Having someone from the class respond to the question is even more valuable and creates a self-sustaining internet community.

Lectures

The lecture slides will be posted on the website along with each class. The amount of overlap between lectures and required readings will vary across topics, so you should read the lecture slides and come to class (or watch it online) regularly.

Email Policy

My policy is to respond to emails within 2 working days of receipt. I am available to all my students and encourage you all to visit me during office hours (in-person or online) for help with the material, or for a casual chat about psychology or personality. However, given the size of the class and my already overflowing inbox, I would prefer if you would limit clarification emails by doing the following. If you have questions or concerns, always check the course syllabus and the FAQ page on Quercus first. If you don't find your answer there, you could also try posting a question in the discussion forum on Quercus. If that doesn't work, contact the course TAs at tara.gralnick@mail.utoronto.ca and allison.eades@mail.utoronto.ca

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Please note there is a lengthy FAQ document on Quercus. This contains a collection of common questions I am asked by students. Please always check the FAQ document before emailing me or a course TA with a question. If you have a question that is not listed on the FAQ page, your TAs or I will add it to the FAQ document.

Evaluation and Grades

Grades are a measure of the performance of a student in individual courses. Each student shall be judged on the basis of how well he or she has command of the course materials.

	Marks	Due Dates
1 st term test	30%	Class time on Jan. 30, 2019
2 nd term test	30%	Class time on March 6, 2019
final exam	40%	TBA (exam period)
Bonus marks	3%	
		Discussion board questions will be posted on

Wednesdays after class and you have only 1 week to post your response. Bonus marks will not be allotted to answers that are posted late.

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

1st term test (30%)

The first test is 2 hours and it will take place in class on Jan. 30th, 2019. It covers material discussed in lectures, lecture slides, and covered in the textbook chapters required for Lectures 1-3. The test is closed book and closed notes. It is intended to assess your understanding of course materials. The test will consist of 90 multiple choice questions designed to gauge your knowledge about the material presented in the lectures and in the required course readings.

2nd term test (30%)

The second test is 2 hours and it will take place in class on March 6, 2019. It covers material discussed in lectures, lecture slides, and covered in the textbook chapters required for Lectures 4-6. The test is closed book and closed notes. It is not cumulative. It is intended to assess your understanding of course materials. The test will consist of 90 multiple choice questions designed to gauge your knowledge about the material presented in the lectures and in the required course readings.

3rd final exam (40%)

The 3rd test will take place in the final exam period. The location and date are TBD. It will take two hours and 30 minutes. It is not cumulative. It covers material discussed in lectures, lecture slides, and covered in the textbook chapters required for Lectures 7-10. The test is closed book and closed notes. It is intended to assess your understanding of course materials. The test will consist of 120 multiple choice questions designed to gauge your knowledge about the material presented in the lectures and in the required course readings.

Please Note: You must bring photo identification with you to each test/exam or you will not be permitted to write the test/examination

Participation in online discussions (up to 3% bonus marks)

You may receive up to 3 bonus marks, which will be added to your final grade, for participating in the course online discussion forum. You will receive up to 1 bonus mark for each posted response. Only responses to discussion questions posted by me will be graded for bonus marks. The amount of bonus marks that you obtain will be based on the quality of your response (i.e., the extent of critical thinking that's been exhibited). You may post to the discussion board as many times as you like. You are not required to participate.

After a discussion question is posted, you will have 1-week to post a response in order to receive bonus marks. You may post responses after 1-week but you will not receive course credit for your response.

The course TAs and I will aim to grade all responses to discussion board posts within 2 weeks of responses being posted. If you do not receive a grade within 2 weeks after your response has been posted, please email a course TA to ensure that your response was not missed.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work or term-test must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. 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.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- In the case of a **disability-related concern**, if your desired accommodation is within the scope of your Accommodation Letter, please attach a copy of your letter. If your desired accommodation is outside the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. if your letter says "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your consultant at AccessAbility Services and have them email Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.
- For U of T Varsity **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances. If you are unable to meet this deadline, you must email Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Attach scans of your documentation.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). **You are responsible for checking your official U of**

T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Instructors cannot accept term work after April 12, 2019. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office to have your term work accepted (<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

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

A make-up term-test will be held approximately two weeks following the dates of the 1st and 2nd term-tests. Students will be permitted to take the make-up test only if they were absent on the dates of the term-tests due to a verified, documented, reason. Students will be notified about whether their documented reason for their absence has been accepted by the department shortly after their documentation has been submitted. Students who do not contact Keely Hicks within 3 business days of a term-test, who do not submit their documentation on time, whose documents are not accepted, or who do not appear for their make-up exam, will be given a grade of zero on the test that they missed.

UTSC Missed Final Examination Policy:

From the UTSC Registrar's Office: "Students are expected to write their final examinations at the end of their courses and are strongly discouraged from missing a final examination. Very occasionally, students encounter circumstances where it is impossible for them to write a final examination; for example, because of a serious illness or the death of a close family member. If you are ill or other circumstances absolutely prevent you from attending a final examination, you may petition (with supporting documentation) for permission to defer writing it until a later date. In most cases deferred exams will be written in the next final examination period or in the study break that immediately precedes it. However, students should be aware that deferred exams can be scheduled at any time during the following session.

AccessAbility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations [416-287-7560](tel:416-287-7560) or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

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/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty

and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids;
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test;
- Misrepresenting your identity; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Copyright in Instructional Settings:

If a student wishes to tape-record, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes/slides, or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Without consent, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Weekly Schedule

Session	Lecture #	Date	Topic	Readings
1	1	Jan. 9	Course overview & introduction to personality psychology	Read: Chapters 1 & 3 of the textbook.
2	2	Jan. 16	The assessment & measurement of personality	Read: Chapters 2 & 4 of the textbook.
3	3	Jan. 23	Is personality hardwired? Change vs. stability across time.	Read: Chapter 5 of the textbook.
4		Jan. 30	Term-test #1	
5	4	Feb. 6	The biology of personality	Read: Chapters 6 & 7 of the textbook.
6	5	Feb. 13	The evolutionary underpinnings of personality	Read: Chapter 8 of the textbook.
		Feb. 20	Reading week	
7	6	Feb. 27	Psychoanalytic perspectives	Read: Chapters 9 & 10 of the textbook.
8		March 6	Term-test #2	
9	7	March 13	Motivation, emotion, & cognition	Read: Chapters 11 & 12 & 13 of the textbook.
10	8	March 20	Sex differences & cultural perspectives	Read: Chapters 16 & 17 of the textbook.
11	9	March 27	Personality & health	Read: Chapter 18 & 19 of the textbook.
12	10	April 3	The self & social interaction	Read: Chapters 14 & 15 of the textbook.
Final Exam		TBA		