

Course Outline

PSYB30H3S L01

Introduction to Personality

Winter 2020

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 11:30am-1pm in room 123 of PO103 and also via telephone or videoconferencing on Sundays from 1:30-2pm. Please read the “office hours” section below for details about my protocol for office hours.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

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.

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!

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, then please contact me or the course TAs.

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.

Office hours

I enthusiastically welcome you to visit me during office hours (either in-person on Wednesdays 11:30am – 1pm or online/telephone on Sundays 1:30-2pm). I am happy to use this time to address any of your questions or concerns, to offer feedback on your performance in the course, to discuss strategies for improvement, or to have a casual chat about psychology or about career prospects. However, I ask that you **please send me an email in advance of dropping by to let me know what time you will be stopping by, and give me a heads up about the issue(s) that you would like to address.** This will allow me to prepare for our appointment, when necessary, and it will also serve to prevent line-ups from forming during office hours. If you would like to attend virtual/telephone office hours on Sundays, please send me an email additionally indicating whether you would prefer to speak via telephone or teleconferencing. If you'd like to speak over the phone, please let me know a number that I can reach you at; If you'd like to speak over videochat, please let me know whether you'd prefer to speak via skype, zoom, or facetime (and how I can contact you on that platform).

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	26%	Class time on Jan. 29, '20
2 nd term test	26%	Class time on March 4, '20
final exam	36%	TBA (exam period)
Discussion forum	12%	Discussion board questions will be posted on Wednesdays after each lecture and they are due before the start-time of the next lecture.

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

1st term test (26%)

The first test is 2 hours and it will take place in class on Jan. 29th, 2020. 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 (26%)

The second test is 2 hours and it will take place in class on March 4, 2020. 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.

Final exam (36%)

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 (12%)

Following each lecture, I will post at least 1 discussion question on Quercus. You are expected to respond to at least 3 of these discussion questions over the course of the semester. Excellent posts go beyond the information in the lecture or readings by relating what is learned in this class to other classes, to authoritative sources found in other books, the internet, etc. Your responses will be graded. Your mark will be based upon your ability to: 1) show that you understand the course material that relates to the discussion question (35% of your mark), 2) write a clear, well-written, and well-structured response (35% of your mark), and 3) demonstrate critical thinking (30% of your mark). Your response should not exceed 500 words. If it is longer than 500 words, you will lose 1% of your mark for every additional word.

The final grade that you receive for your participation in the discussion board will be composed of the average of your 3 most highly graded entries. This means that you are only required to submit 3 discussion board entries but you are entitled to submit 4. If you submit 4 then I will include only your 3 best entries when calculating your final mark. You may submit more than 4 discussion board posts. However, once you have submitted 4, the rest will not count towards your final grade.

Please note the following:

- After a discussion question is posted, you will have only 1-week to post a response. Responses are due before the following class begins.
- Sometimes more than 1 discussion question will be posted. However, you may only respond to 1 question per week. Choose the question that interests you most.
- 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.
- Please ensure that your post has been successfully uploaded to Quercus. If you have any doubt or technical difficulties, please email me or a course TA your entry in order to prove that your entry was submitted on time. Late entries will not be graded.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the history of the study of the psychology of personality.

2. Critically analyze the major psychological and evolutionary theories of personality.
3. Understand the methods that are used in the scientific study of the psychology of personality.
4. Express one's thoughts on the psychology of personality in writing.
5. Respectfully and clearly communicate one's thoughts on the psychology of personality to others.

Term-Test Review/ Feedback on Discussion Board Entries:

You are welcome to request a term-test viewing to see which answers you got right/wrong on your term-tests. One of the course TAs will post an announcement within 1-week of the term-test grades being uploaded to let you know when she will be hosting a test-viewing. If you cannot make it at that time, please feel free to email her to try to arrange an alternate viewing. After viewing your test with the course TA, you can feel free to visit me during office hours to discuss your performance on the test – I'm always happy to help you to strategize about how to improve your performance.

You are also welcome to visit me during office hours if you would like to obtain feedback on your performance on the discussion board. I'm happy to read your entries to discuss them with you and to try to help you to improve your performance. Please see the office hours section above to find out how to book an appointment.

Asking for Increased Grades, Extra Credit Assignments, or Other Extenuating Circumstances:

Please note that I do not believe that it is fair to offer extra credit assignments, increased grades, extensions, etc. to some students and not others. While I understand the pressure that students are often under to achieve a certain grade point average, I do not believe that it is ethical to offer special treatment to some students and not others, nor do I believe that it is appropriate for students to ask for such special treatment. For this reason, I will not respond to such requests.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work 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.
- Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of two weeks. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of three business days (starting from the midterm date.)

For missed TERM TESTS due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- Meet with your AccessAbility consultant and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations 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 ASSIGNMENTS due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is within the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and attach a copy of your letter. Specify how many days extension you are requesting on the request form.
- If your desired accommodation is outside the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your AccessAbility consultant and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

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.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional 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.
- For circumstances outside of these guidelines, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) on the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate

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. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a 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.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

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.

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.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window, you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

NOTE: Final Exams

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

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@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. 8	Course overview & introduction to personality psychology	Read: Chapters 1 & 3 of the textbook.
2	2	Jan. 15	The assessment & measurement of personality	Read: Chapters 2 & 4 of the textbook.
3	3	Jan. 22	Is personality hardwired? Change vs. stability across time.	Read: Chapter 5 of the textbook.
4		Jan. 29	Term-test #1	
5	4	Feb. 5	The biology of personality	Read: Chapters 6 & 7 of the textbook.
6	5	Feb. 12	The evolutionary underpinnings of personality	Read: Chapter 8 of the textbook.
		June 19	Reading week	
7	6	Feb. 26	Psychoanalytic perspectives ***I will be away at a conference today so this lecture will be posted online on Quercus – there will be no in-class lecture***	Read: Chapters 9 & 10 of the textbook.
8		March 4	Term-test #2	
9	7	March 11	Motivation, emotion, & cognition	Read: Chapters 11 & 12 & 13 of the textbook.
10	8	March 18	Sex differences & cultural perspectives	Read: Chapters 16 & 17 of the textbook.
11	9	March 25	Personality & health	Read: Chapter 18 & 19 of the textbook.
12	10	April 1	The self & social interaction	Read: Chapters 14 & 15 of the textbook.
Final Exam		TBA		