

# PSYD30

## CURRENT TOPICS IN PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

### Prof. Marc A. Fournier

An intensive examination of selected issues and research problems in personality psychology. The specific content will vary from year to year.

#### **Focus for 2020: *Life-Span Personality Development***

**Instructor Office Hours:** Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in SW418 (**by appointment**)

**Seminar Times:** Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in SW316

**E-mail:** [fournier@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:fournier@utsc.utoronto.ca)

**Textbook.** McAdams, D. P. (2015). *The art and science of personality development*. New York: Guilford. (Available from the UTSC Bookstore and on reserve in the UTSC Library.)

#### **Seminar Schedule**

Week 1	January 9	Introduction & Overview
Week 2	January 16	Chapter 1. In the Beginning...
Week 3	January 23	Chapter 2. The Actor Takes the Stage
Week 4	January 30	Chapter 3. The Problem of Self-Regulation
Week 5	February 6	Chapter 4. The Actor Grows Up
Week 6	February 20	Chapter 5. The Age 5-7 Shift
Week 7	February 27	Chapter 6. The Motivational Agenda
Week 8	March 5	Chapter 7. How Values Shape Agency
Week 9	March 12	Chapter 8. The Stories We Live By
Week 10	March 19	Chapter 9. Generative Lives, Redemptive Life Stories
Week 11	March 26	Chapter 10. The Sense of an Ending
Week 12	April 2	Summary & Conclusion

#### **Components of Evaluation**

20%	Individual Participation
30%	Group Presentation
50%	Final Paper

#### **The Importance of the First Class**

To a much greater extent than lecture-based courses, seminars depend upon students' attendance. The first class of the term is of particular importance, because we will use this class to organize the student presentation schedule for the term. Students who miss the first class without just cause will receive a **2% penalty** that will apply against their final grade.

**Individual Participation.** I expect you to come to class each week having completed the assigned reading, to pay careful attention to the comments and questions of your classmates, and to contribute regularly and thoughtfully to the class discussion. You will receive course credit for each of these activities. First, I expect you to come to class each week ready to contribute to the discussion. You should submit a **1-page reaction paper** each week using the template provided, summarizing your comments and questions concerning the chapter that we will be discussing. Please note that I will not be formally grading your reaction papers; rather, I will be skimming them to ensure that you have made a good faith attempt to grapple with the assigned reading. You must submit your reaction papers to me *in person*; reaction papers submitted *in absentia* will not be accepted. You will receive 1% for each reaction paper you submit up to 10%. Second, I expect you to pay attention to your classmates as they present. Laptops will not be permitted during students' presentations, and all students who are not presenting will be expected to complete a **peer review survey** using the template provided. Please note that your peer reviews will not be used to evaluate the group presentation, but rather to ensure that you have made a good-faith attempt to intellectually engage with the presented material and to cultivate an appreciation of effective presentation skills. You will receive 1% for each peer review survey you submit up to 8%. Finally, I expect you each to contribute regularly to the class discussion. Your comments should demonstrate that you have read and reflected upon the assigned material. My evaluation of your comments will comprise the remaining 2% to your final grade.

**Group Presentation.** I expect you to make one presentation that elaborates upon the issues discussed in the chapter you have selected. You will present in groups of three; each student should speak for approx. 15 minutes, so group presentations should run for approx. 45 minutes in length. I expect you to use PowerPoint as part of your presentation. You will be required to go beyond simply summarizing the chapter. I expect you to provide the class with an expanded perspective and critical analysis of the assigned reading by consulting and referencing *at least three* supplementary readings such as journal articles and book chapters. I will expect all presentation groups to schedule an appointment to speak with me about their supplementary materials at least one week before the scheduled date of their presentation. Although all students will present in groups, each student will be evaluated individually in terms of their clarity of presentation, their comprehension/organization, and their use of supplementary readings.

**Final Paper.** I expect you to write a 2,000-word final paper in which you provide an in-depth examination and a review of the literature pertaining to one of the following constructs: Intelligence; Creativity; Wisdom; Impulsivity; Self-Control; Empathy; Psychopathy; Narcissism; Self-Esteem; Religiosity; Political Orientation; or Well-Being. Your paper should address the following: First, how is the construct conceptualized? In other words, how has it been defined and measured? Second, what is the structure of the construct? In other words, what are its parts, and how do they hang together? Third, what are the dynamics of the construct? In other words, what are its constituent processes and mechanisms? Fourth, how does the construct develop over time, and is it amenable to intervention? Finally, what are the notable correlates of the construct, both in terms of personality dimensions and consequential outcomes? Students should submit an annotated list of 10 references by **11:59 pm on Friday, March 6**. Your reference list will be graded out of 10 as part of the evaluation of your paper, which will be graded out of 50. Students should submit their papers through Quercus and turnitin.com by **11:59 pm on Friday, April 3**. Late submissions will receive a penalty of 10% for each day that the final paper is overdue.

**Academic Integrity.** The University of Toronto treats academic offenses very seriously. Offenders are caught and sanctions can be severe (i.e., a grade of zero, suspension, expulsion). Students are expected both to know and to follow the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. For more information: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

**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-on-one consultations, and writing workshops. For more information: <http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/main>

**AccessAbility Services.** The principal function of AccessAbility Services is to ensure that the policies, practices, procedures, and programs at UTSC are inclusive to ensure the equal access to students with disabilities. The office thus provides accommodations to students with a documented learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disability or medical condition. For more information: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

**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 **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](http://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](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to the **DEATH of a FAMILY MEMBER or FRIEND**:

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

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

### **Missed Accommodations**

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

### **Importance of the 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](mailto: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 the 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>).