

Course Outline

PSYB30H3Y L99

Introduction to Personality

Summer 2020

Course Meets: Online – lectures posted Wednesdays at 9am

Instructor: Dr. Shona Tritt
E-Mail: shona.tritt@mail.utoronto.ca
Webpage: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>
Office Hours: Office hours will be held online on Wednesdays from 2-4pm via “BB Collaborate” on Quercus. Please read the “office hours” section below for details about my protocol for office hours.
Teaching Assistants: Willem Le Duc w.leduc@mail.utoronto.ca
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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 Quercus every Wednesday at 9am. The amount of overlap between lectures and required readings will vary across topics, so you should read the lecture slides and (virtually) attend class.

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 online office hours 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 welcome you to visit me during online office hours, which are held on Wednesdays from 2 – 4pm via “BB Collaborate” on Quercus. 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 at least 24-hours before office hours to let me know that you would like to book an appointment, 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 as I will book students into 15-minute uninterrupted time-slots. Given that my office hours tend to get very busy and the 15-minute time-slots are often fully filled, I ask that you please show consideration by letting me know if you would like to cancel your appointment with me, giving as much notice as you can so that I can offer the time-slot to another student. You will find a document in the modules section of Quercus with information on how to use BB Collaborate to connect with me.

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%	TBD
2 nd term test	26%	TBD
final exam	36%	TBD during the exam period
Discussion forum	12%	Discussion board questions will be posted on Wednesdays at 9am along with each lecture. They are due at 8:59am before the next lecture is posted.

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

1st term test (26%)

The first test is 70 minutes and it will take place online via Quercus (in the quizzes tab). It covers material discussed in lectures, lecture slides, and covered in the textbook chapters required for Lectures 1-3. The test is open book and open notes. It is intended to assess your understanding of course materials. The test will consist of 60 multiple choice questions designed to gauge your knowledge about the material presented in the lectures and in the required course readings.

Please note that in a multiple choice exam, there is always 1-best answer, even if more than 1-answer might seem to fit.

2nd term test (26%)

The second test is 70 minutes and it will take place online via Quercus (in the quizzes tab). It covers material discussed in lectures, lecture slides, and covered in the textbook chapters required for Lectures 4-6. The test is open book and open notes. It is not cumulative. It is intended to assess your understanding of course materials. The test will consist of 60 multiple choice questions designed to gauge your knowledge about the material presented in the lectures and in the required course readings. Please note that in a multiple choice exam, there is always 1-best answer, even if more than 1-answer might seem to fit.

Final exam (36%)

The 3rd test is 105 minutes and it will take place online via Quercus (in the quizzes tab) at 12:30pm. 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 open book and open 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. Please note that in a multiple choice exam, there is always 1-best answer, even if more than 1-answer might seem to fit.

****A couple of notes about the term-tests & final exam:***

- You must start the exam on-time – if you are late, you will be automatically cut-off after the set end-time, even if the timer shows that you have additional time left.
- You will have access to only 1 question at a time and the questions will be locked after answering.
- I am giving everyone ample time to complete the exam (1-minute per question plus an additional 10-minutes on term-tests & an additional 15-minutes on the final exam) to compensate for the fact that students may encounter some minor technological problems such as slow internet speed. If you have a major problem with your internet that prevents you from completing the exam, please let me know ASAP and I will instead offer you the opportunity to write an essay-style exam. The essay-style exam will need to be completed within 24-hours.
 - o Please be aware that if you report that you could not complete your test/exam because of internet or Quercus issues, I will ask you to send me a written summary of the issues that occurred (e.g., was a page slow to load, did you get disconnected multiple times, and if so, at which point in the test, etc.). I will then request a “detailed log” of your exam from Quercus support and they will be able to assess the situation. Please be aware that to misrepresent any technical issues during a test or an exam is considered an offence of academic integrity.
- You must work alone on all tests & exams - if you communicate with anyone else about exam material during the exam, or refer to any information posted online by another student about this exam, you are committing an offence of academic integrity. It is also considered academic misconduct to share test-materials with others.

Participation in online discussions (12%)

Following each lecture, I will post at least 1 discussion question on Quercus. You are expected

to respond to 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 entries.

You can submit your entry on Quercus. You will find the discussions in the “Assignments” tab.

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:

Approximately 2-weeks following the term-tests, after the make-up test has taken place, you will be permitted to see which answers you got right/wrong on the term-tests. After viewing your test, you can feel free to schedule a visit 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.

Sharing/Distributing test content

Please be aware that you are strictly prohibited from sharing or distributing the content of tests and exams in any way. To share test material, online, verbally, or otherwise, is an offence of academic integrity.

Asking for Increased Grades, Extra Credit Assignments, “rounding-up”, 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. I also do not believe that it is fair to “round-up” some students grades and not others. I am furthermore not permitted to manipulate certain individual student’s grades. 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. 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. Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

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 or TERM TESTS due to FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS or SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS: · Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and · Declare your absence on ACORN (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

For missed ASSIGNMENTS due to OTHER ILLNESS: · Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed TERM TESTS due to OTHER ILLNESS: · Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with a scan/photo of the 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 ER.

· Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician’s registration # 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 illness start date.)

For missed TERM TESTS due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS: · Meet with your AccessAbility consultant and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing accommodations required.

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 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and attach a copy of your letter. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.

- 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 ASSIGNMENTS or TERM TESTS in OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES: Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with:

- For the death of a family member/friend, provide a copy of the 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 (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 (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 or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

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

As stated above, your documents must be submitted within three (3) business days of the deadline for the missed work.

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 Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

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>).

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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-](tel:416-287-)

[7560](tel: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:

- 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:

- Plagiarism
- 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	May 13	Course overview & introduction to personality psychology	Read: Chapters 1 & 3 of the textbook.
2	2	May 20	The assessment & measurement of personality	Read: Chapters 2 & 4 of the textbook.
3	3	May 27	Is personality hardwired? Change vs. stability across time.	Read: Chapter 5 of the textbook.
4		June 3	No lecture - term-test #1 is this week	
5	4	June 10	The biology of personality	Read: Chapters 6 & 7 of the textbook.
6	5	June 17	The evolutionary underpinnings of personality	Read: Chapter 8 of the textbook.
		June 24	Reading week	
7	6	July 1	Psychoanalytic perspectives	Read: Chapters 9 & 10 of the textbook.
8		July 8	No lecture - term-test #2 is this week	
9	7	July 15	Motivation, emotion, & cognition	Read: Chapters 11 & 12 & 13 of the textbook.
10	8	July 22	Sex differences & cultural perspectives	Read: Chapters 16 & 17 of the textbook.
11	9	July 29	Personality & health	Read: Chapter 18 & 19 of the textbook.
12	10	August 5	The self & social interaction	Read: Chapters 14 & 15 of the textbook.
Final Exam		TBD		