

PSYD30

CURRENT TOPICS IN PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Prof. Marc A. Fournier

Focus for 2022: *Life-Span Personality Development*

Note. Classes will be video-recorded synchronously over Zoom and then posted on Quercus.

Seminar Times: Mondays from 13:00 to 15:00 in BV260 (on Zoom until further notice)

Office Hours: Mondays from 15:00 to 16:00 in HW516 (on Zoom until further notice)

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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 10	Introduction & Overview
Week 2	January 17	Reviewing Personality Literature
Week 3	January 24	Chapter 1. In the Beginning...
Week 4	January 31	Chapter 2. The Actor Takes the Stage
Week 5	February 7	Chapter 3. The Problem of Self-Regulation
Week 6	February 14	Chapter 4. The Actor Grows Up
Week 7	February 28	Chapter 5. The Age 5-7 Shift
Week 8	March 7	Chapter 6. The Motivational Agenda
Week 9	March 14	Chapter 7. How Values Shape Agency
Week 10	March 21	Chapter 8. The Stories We Live By
Week 11	March 28	Chapter 9. Generative Lives, Redemptive Life Stories
Week 12	April 4	Chapter 10. The Sense of an Ending

Learning Objectives

- To reinforce students' familiarity with and understanding of personality constructs by examining their usage in contemporary personality theory and research.
- To reinforce students' understanding of how the reliability and validity of personality constructs are assessed, with a focus on the idea of incremental validity.
- To reinforce students' abilities to review the scientific literature.

Components of Evaluation

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

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 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 one-page reaction paper for weeks 3-12 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 will receive 1% for each reaction paper you submit up to 10%. Second, 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 and/or paid attention to the student presentations. My evaluation of your comments will comprise the remaining 10% of your participation grade.

Group Presentation. I expect you to each make one in-class presentation (using PowerPoint). Students will present in groups of three; each student should speak for about 15 minutes, so that group presentations should run for about 45 minutes. Although students will present in groups, each student will be evaluated individually. Each student's presentation should focus on a single personality construct and the relevant research that has been published on that construct since 2015 (i.e., the publication date of the textbook). Your goal should be to identify at least three references from prominent journals in the field of personality psychology that come together to form a research front (i.e., highly cited papers, all citing each other, focusing on a specific topic). Presenters should speak with me about their references during office hours at least one week before their presentation date. Presentations will be assessed in terms of the quality of references identified (i.e., how well the articles "hang together" to identify a particular research front), the student's comprehension/organization of the subject matter, and their clarity of presentation.

Final Paper. I expect you to write a 2,000-word final paper in which you provide an in-depth examination and review of the literature pertaining to two dimensions of individual difference (e.g., intelligence and wisdom, extraversion and conscientiousness, or self-control and empathy). The paper should be structured as a debate, with the goal of determining which individual difference is of greater consequence (i.e., which individual difference dimension matters more). For each individual difference dimension you select, 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, particularly with respect to consequential life outcomes? After reviewing the relevant findings for each construct, the paper should draw a conclusion as to which is the more consequential. Students should submit an annotated list of their top 10 references (i.e., 5 references/construct) by **11:59 pm on Friday, March 11**. 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 *Ouriginal* (i.e., the University of Toronto's new plagiarism detection tool) by **11:59 pm on Friday, April 8**. Late submissions will receive a 10% penalty for each day that the paper is overdue unless a Missed Term Work request is also provided and approved.

Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Your performance in this class will depend upon your ability to communicate clearly and effectively. CTL 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/ctl/>

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 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/>

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>

Missed Term Work Policy. For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- 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.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>

Accommodations for Illness or Emergency:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following **three-step** process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)
2. Declare your absence on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
3. Email both the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form **AND** a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on [ACORN](#) to the email address provided by your instructor on the course syllabus **within 2 business days** of the missed work.

Note: If you are unable to submit your documents within 2-business days, **you must still email your instructor within the 2-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: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.

Accommodations for Academic Conflicts:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two midterms scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#), choosing “Other” and explaining the conflict in the space provided.
2. Take screenshots of your course homepages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to your course instructor **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.

Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.

Accommodations for Religious Conflicts:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#), choosing “Other” and noting “Religious conflict” in the space provided.
2. Email the form to your course instructor **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email your instructor detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
 2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to your instructor, specifying how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email your instructor detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for an instructor response to resume work on your assignment**. Extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. You should complete your assignment as soon as you are able and email it your instructor.

For an anticipated event (e.g. scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor, AND this form to your instructor if you would like to request accommodations in advance of the assignment deadline or midterm date. **Declare your future absence on [ACORN](#) (absences can be declared up to 14 days in the future).**

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. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation**. For example, if you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up midterm, you must submit another request 'Missed Term Work Accommodations' form and declare your extended absence on ACORN. ***Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.