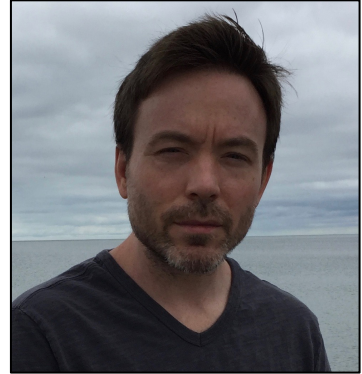


PSYB30H3 – INTRODUCTION TO PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Prof. Marc A. Fournier



This course is intended to introduce students to the scientific study of the whole person in biological, social, and cultural contexts. The ideas of classical personality theorists will be discussed in reference to findings from contemporary personality research.

Instructor Email: marc.fournier@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants: Maya Amestoy & Danika Quesnel

Lectures: Wednesdays from 14:00 to 17:00 in AC 223 (all lectures will be recorded)

Textbook: McAdams, D. P., & Dunlop, W. L. (2022). *The person: A new introduction to personality psychology (6th Edition)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. (e-book available via Bookstore)

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 11:00 to 12:00 on MS Teams (scheduled via Quercus)

Prerequisites: PSYA01H3 and PSYA02H3 (Exclusion: PSY230H)

Course Overview. This course will consist of ten lectures arranged into three parts. Parts I and II of the course will each conclude with a one-hour in-class term test to be held in Weeks 4 and 8. The course as a whole will close with a cumulative and comprehensive three-hour final exam. The term tests and final exam will cover the content of both the lectures and the textbook.

Note that this is an **in-person** course. Lecture recordings are intended to *support* your attendance. Lecture recordings are *not* intended to serve as a *substitute* for your attendance. I do not assume responsibility for any issues with the lecture recordings, and I will not re-record the lectures. Students are expected to attend the lectures and to be available for the in-class term tests.

I. Learning Objectives

- To introduce students to the scientific study of the whole person (individual differences).
- To introduce students to the intellectual forces that historically shaped the scientific study of personality psychology (i.e., psychoanalysis, behaviorism, humanism, evolution).
- To introduce students to personality traits, focal constructs in contemporary personality theory and research, and to the longstanding issues relating to taxonomy, heritability, consistency, and continuity that have preoccupied this area of scientific inquiry.
- To introduce students to the constructs of agency, identity, morality, and the self that extend the science of personality psychology beyond the study of traits.
- To reinforce students' abilities to communicate through writing.

II. Lecture Outline

Part I. You Are a Unique Variation on an Evolved Psychological Design Situated in Culture

Read Chapters 1–3 in *The Person*

(08-01-2025) Week 1. The whole person

(15-01-2025) Week 2. Our evolutionary origins

(22-01-2025) Week 3. Family, society, and culture

(29-01-2025) Week 4. **Part I in-person/in-class term test**

Part II. On Personality Traits—Taxonomy, Heritability, Consistency, and Continuity

Read Chapters 4–8 in *The Person*

(05-02-2025) Week 5. History of trait concepts

(12-02-2025) Week 6. Contemporary trait taxonomies

(26-02-2025) Week 7. Continuity, heritability, and change

(05-03-2025) Week 8. **Part II in-person/in-class term test**

Part III. Beyond Personality Traits—Agency, Identity, Morality, and the Self

Read Chapters 9–12 in *The Person*

(12-03-2025) Week 9. Self and other

(19-03-2025) Week 10. Goals and needs

(26-03-2025) Week 11. Identity and the life story

(02-04-2025) Week 12. Values, morality, and the good person

(Date TBD) Final Exam Period: Three-Hour Cumulative Final Exam

Note. Students will not be tested on the textbook case studies.

III. Evaluation Policies & Procedures

The course will consist of two one-hour in-class term tests and a three-hour final exam. The term tests will be held in Week 4 and Week 8. The final exam will be held in the final exam period. Each test or exam will consist of multiple-choice (lecture) and short-answer (textbook) questions. There will be three short-answer questions on each term test and four short-answer questions on the final exam. Taken together, the short-answer questions will be worth 25% of your final grade.

As what matters to me is how much of this course you can command in its entirety by term's end, it is essential that the final exam provide a comprehensive (cumulative) assessment of the course. However, if your performance on the multiple-choice component of the final exam with respect to either Part I or Part II is greater than your performance on the multiple-choice component of the respective term test, then your performance on the multiple-choice component of the final exam will assume the weight of the multiple-choice component of the term test. Taken together, the multiple-choice questions (however they are weighted) will be worth 75% of your final grade.

Term Test 1 (29-01-2025): 30 MC questions (15%) & 3 SA questions (07.5%) = 22.5%

Term Test 2 (05-03-2025): 30 MC questions (15%) & 3 SA questions (07.5%) = 22.5%

Cumulative Final Exam: 90 MC questions (45%) & 4 SA questions (10.0%) = 55.0%

V. University Standards & Campus Services

Writing Support. The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) provides online resources, drop-in hours, one-on-one consultations, and writing workshops. For more information, please visit CTL's Academic Learning Support site at <http://uoft.me/AcademicLearningSupport>.

Academic Integrity. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously and sanctions can be severe (e.g., a course grade of zero, suspension, or expulsion). The University's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the actions that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences on term tests and exams include using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion. The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights, and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an inclusive atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. The University does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

AccessAbility-Related Accommodations. 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 Office (<http://www.utoronto.ca/ability/>) as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Room AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please contact 416-287-7560 or email ability.utoronto.ca for more information. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools. Students may only use generative AI tools in this course as learning aids. Students may not use generative AI tools during test-taking. The use of generative AI tools during test-taking will be considered an academic offense.

Missed Term Work Policy. Students who miss a term test due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances may petition to write a make-up term test in Week 10. Students must complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ("MTW Form") and then email *both* your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to <marc.fournier@utoronto.ca> according to the instructions specified below. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your accommodation request. If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, then you must repeat the MTW procedure to request additional accommodations. Accordingly, if you miss a make-up term test, then you must submit another MTW form and supply documentation according to the "subsequent absences" column in the chart above. Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation. Also note that in the case of a missed make-up test, there will be no opportunity to write a second make-up test.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documents required for a <i>first absence</i> in the term	Documents required for <i>subsequent absences</i> in the term	Deadline to submit MTW form and supporting documentation
Illness or Injury	ACORN Absence Declaration	UofT Verification of Illness Form	<u>2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER</u> the missed work
Bereavement	ACORN Absence Declaration	A death certificate or funeral announcement	<u>2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER</u> the missed work
University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	ACORN Absence Declaration	A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the obligation, sent directly to the course email	<u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> of the missed deadline
Disability-related reasons for students registered with AccessAbility Services	Contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed.		<u>PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE OF THE MISSED WORK, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</u>
Academic Conflict (e.g. two midterms at the same time)	Screenshot from Quercus demonstrating the conflict.		<u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> of the missed work
Religious Conflict	None required		

Notes:

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

The following reasons are not considered to be sufficient for missed term work: social activities, recreational travel, technological issues, avoidance of assessments, work commitments.

For ACORN absence declarations, the date of your missed term test is required to fall within the period of your declared absence.

If you are unable to submit your request within the specified number of business days, you must still email your instructor within that window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only under exceptional circumstances.

Back-to-back term tests are not considered to be academic conflicts, so please plan accordingly.

[Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService.