

Renison University College
Personality Theory
Psychology322R, Winter 2012

Monday and Wednesday, 1:00pm – 2:20pm, REN 2107

Professor: Dr. Christine Logel

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2:30pm (or by appointment)

Course Overview: This course is designed to provide you with an in-depth understanding of the study of personality as a behavioural science. You will study the theories, principles, and methods of personality with the goal of understanding how to measure personality, how research in personality is conducted, and the extent to which personality can predict thoughts, feelings, and behaviour.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop an in-depth knowledge of the psychological study of personality.
2. To be able to apply psychological research to assess peoples' personality for research purposes.
3. To understand the current issues, methods, and topics in personality psychology.
4. To develop the ability to relate the findings of personality research to your life and to important issues in our society and the world at large.
5. To read and understand a journal article in personality psychology.

Required text:

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2008). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (4th edition). McGraw-Hill.

Course website: The website for this course provides lecture slides as well as other helpful information. You can log into the course site through the Desire 2 Learn System.

Requirements:

Tests. There will be 2 tests scheduled throughout the term, each worth 35% of your final mark. One will be an in-class midterm, and one will be a final exam. They are not cumulative. They will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Presentation 1: Personality Trait (15%). At the start of each class, one or two students, working individually, will present a personality measure to the class. They will have the class fill out a measure of this personality trait, and then will make a five-minute presentation telling the class about the trait and characteristics of people who are high and low on the trait. A list of traits to choose from will be made available at the first class.

Presentation II or Paper: Personality Assessment (15%). Each student will choose any historical or fictional figure – ideally one that most people will have heard of – and describe their personalities. Use evidence to make your case for where they stand on the Big Five traits, and any three other personality factors, domains, or traits discussed in class.

Class format: There are two sources of material for the course: the textbook and the lectures. The lectures will focus on specific topics and are not meant to provide coverage of all material in the text. Lectures will elaborate and build upon the text material. It is recommended that you attend all lectures. Keeping up with your courses is important to your success in university.

If you are having trouble with the course:

If you are experiencing difficulty understanding the material or you are concerned about your exam performance, seek help as soon as possible. I can assist you with the material and provide helpful guidance for studying. If you attend lectures regularly, study the text, and seek help when needed, there is no reason you should not pass the course.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading / Notes
Jan 4	Course Overview	No reading
Jan 9	Introduction to Personality Psychology	Chapter 1
Jan 11	Personality Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design I	Chapter 2 (Stop at Page 38 “Evaluation of Personality Measures)
Jan 16	Personality Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design II; Traits and Taxonomies 1 <i>Presentation 1 begins – two per class until complete</i>	No New Reading
Jan 18	Traits and Trait Taxonomies II	Chapter 3
Jan 23	Personality Dispositions Over Time I	Chapter 5
Jan 25	Personality Dispositions Over Time II	No New Reading
Jan 30	Personality and Social Interaction I	Chapter 15
Feb 1	Personality and Social Interaction I	No New Reading
Feb 6	Approaches to the Self I	Chapter 14
Feb 8	Approaches to the Self II	No New Reading
Feb 13	<i>Test 1</i>	No New Reading
Feb 15	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality I	Chapter 8
Feb 20	Reading Week	No Readings
Feb 22	Reading Week	No Readings
Feb 27	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality II <i>Presentation II begins – three each class until complete</i>	No New Reading
Feb 29	Sex, Gender, and Personality I	Chapter 16
March 5	Sex, Gender, and Personality II	No New Reading

March 7	Stress, Coping, Adjustment, and Health I	Chapter 18
March 12	Stress, Coping, Adjustment, and Health I	No New Reading
March 14	Physiological Approaches to Personality I	Chapter 7
March 19	Physiological Approaches to Personality I	No New Reading
March 21	Genetics and Personality I	Chapter 6
March 26	Genetics and Personality II	No New Reading
March 28	Disorders of Personality I	Chapter 19
Apr 2	Disorders of Personality II	No New Reading
Finals Period		

Notes/Policies:

1) **D2L.** Please check D2L regularly. I will post announcements, lecture notes, grades, etc.

2) **Attendance:** To succeed, attend all lectures. Tests will be approximately 50% lecture material, and I will present material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text.

3) **Cell phone policy:** Ringing cell phones are a disruption during lecture, as is leaving the room to accept a cell phone call during class (even if the ringer is off). Texting can also be a distraction to the people around you. Cell phones must be turned off during lectures.

4) Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Students may take make-up tests if they inform me IN ADVANCE that they will be unable to take the test and follow the procedures outlined at the link above (including having verifiable evidence of a medical problem in a note from Health Services. Students who do not have documentation and do not notify me in advance may not write a make-up test. Allowing them to do so is unfair to the students who showed up for the test. These students may write the optional final exam to replace their missed midterm.

5) Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

6) Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing academic offences and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or Renison’s Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71, Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to this policy www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm . For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm .

7) Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

8) Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if grounds for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm .

9) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

10) Final Examination Policy

For Winter 2012, the established examination period is April 9 – 21, 2012. The schedule will be available in February. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see: <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).