



University of Waterloo

Personality Theory Psychology322R, Winter 2013

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Class Times/Location: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 –3:50 (REN 0104)

Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 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 on personality psychology.

Required text:

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2010). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (4th edition). McGraw-Hill.

Course Requirements:

1) Exams (2 midterm tests each worth 20 % for a total of 40% of your grade; final exam worth 35 % of your grade):

The two midterm tests and the final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The first midterm test will cover all lectures and textbook from the beginning of the course up to that midterm test and the second midterm test will cover all lectures and the textbook from the first midterm until the second midterm. The final exam will cover all lectures and the textbook after the second midterm (the final exam is not cumulative).

2) Personality Trait Analysis (25 %)

The purpose of these assignments is to give you experience in applying the theories you are learning about to your life experience. You will analyze ONE of your personality traits (extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, emotional stability or conscientiousness). Describe examples to make your case for what level you are in that trait, then choose three domains or perspectives (e.g., genetic influences, cognitive perspectives, cultural influences etc...) to discuss your trait. Finally, you will discuss the implications this trait has in your life (e.g., career choice, academic endeavours, health, relationships etc...) using peer reviewed articles.

Journal entries

As we study different theories throughout the semester, you should keep a record of examples from your life experience and discuss relevance to the course materials. Think about how the course materials can be applied to you. This may be done in the form of a diary, lists of ideas, or whatever format is most personally useful—the main idea is to create for yourself a pool of ideas from which to draw when you are ready to write your paper. Your journal entries will not be graded; however, your paper will not be accepted without your journal entries.

Personality Analysis Paper

You will choose one of your personality traits (e.g., extraversion) on the Big Five traits based on your journal entries. You will analyze the examples in terms of three perspectives, personality factors, domains or traits discussed in class or textbook. Then, you will compare and contrast these perspectives and discuss implications in your life.

Submit the paper to the electronic drop box on D2L. More details about the application paper will be given later in the semester.

Midterm Test #1 (January 31 st , Thursday)	20 %
Midterm Test # 2 (February 28 th , Thursday)	20 %
Personality Analysis Paper (Deadline: April 4 th)	25 %
Final Exam	35%

Class Schedule

Week	Lecture Date	Topic	Required Reading Chapter
Week 1	January 8 th (Thursday)	Course Overview	
	January 10 th (Thursday)	Introduction to Personality Psychology	Chapter 1
Week 2	January 15 th (Tuesday)	Personality Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design	Chapter 2 & pp.117 -120
	January 17 th (Thursday)	Traits and Trait Taxonomies I	Chapter 3
Week 3	January 22 nd (Tuesday)	Traits and Trait Taxonomies II	Chapter 3
	January 24 th (Thursday)	Personality Dispositions Over Time I	Chapter 5
Week 4	January 29 th (Tuesday)	Personality Dispositions Over Time II	Chapter 5
	January 31 st (Thursday)	Test # 1	
Week 5	February 5 th (Tuesday)	Personality and Social Interaction I	Chapter 15
	February 7 th (Thursday)	Personality and Social Interaction II	Chapter 15
Week 6	February 12 th (Tuesday)	Genetics and Personality I	Read only pp. 159-177 (in Chapter 6) & pp.198-201 (in Chapter 7)
	February 14 th (Thursday)	Genetics and Personality II	Read only pp. 201-206 (in Chapter 7) & pp. 236-238 (in Chapter 8)
Week 7	Reading Week February 18th – 22nd		
Week 8	February 26 th (Tuesday)	Emotion and Personality	Chapter 13
	February 28 th (Thursday)	Test # 2	
Week 9	March 5 th (Tuesday)	Cognitive Topics in Personality	Chapter 12 & pp. 565-570
	March 7 th (Thursday)	Psychoanalytic Approaches to Personality	Chapter 9
Week 10	March 12 th (Tuesday)	Psychoanalytic Approaches: Contemporary Issues I	Chapter 10
	March 14 th (Thursday)	Psychoanalytic Approaches: Contemporary Issues II	Chapter 10
Week 11	March 19 th (Tuesday)	Approaches to the Self I	Chapter 14

	March 21 st (Thursday)	Approaches to the Self II	Chapter 14
Week 12	March 26 th (Tuesday)	Sex, Gender and Personality I	Chapter 16
	March 28 th (Tuesday)	Sex, Gender and Personality II	Chapter 16
Week 13	April 2 nd (Tuesday)	Stress, Coping, Adjustment and Health	Read only pp.553-564, 576-581 (in Chapter 18)
	April 4 th (Thursday)	Disorders of Personality Personality Analysis Paper Due	Chapter 19

Final Examination Policy

For Winter 2013, the established examination period is April 11-25, 2013. 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>).

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

Academic Integrity:

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

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, 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 professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

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, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

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 a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

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

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, 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 AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.