



Psychology 2550A, Section 550

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research

Intersession Term 2024

Start: May 13, 2024

End: June 21, 2024 (plus the final exam period)

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Prerequisite(s): A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level.

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 2050 if taken before 2016

Instructor: Anita Feher

E-mail address: afeher2@uwo.ca

Note: please write 2550 in the email subject line

Scheduled classes: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 pm (EDT)

Class Location: Live online lectures (i.e., synchronous lectures) will be hosted Monday and Wednesdays via Zoom.

Note: there will be a separate Zoom link for each lecture that can be found on the course site.

Course website: OWL Brightspace Site: westernu.brightspace.com

Office hours: After class or by appointment. Please email me if you have any questions or if you would like to set up a meeting. Office hours will be held via Zoom.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history, methodology, and content of the study of personality and individual differences. Topics that will be covered in the course include an introduction to personality theories, an examination of frequently studied personality and individual difference variables, and a consideration of current research and assessment methods.

3. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the course, students will develop knowledge, understanding, and the ability to critically evaluate personality-relevant material:

- ✓ **PERSONALITY THEORIES:** By the end of this course students will be able to discuss, compare, and critically examine major personality theories and how they were developed, as well as how they are relevant to modern society and social concerns.
- ✓ **PERSONALITY TRAITS:** By the end of this course students will understand and be able to compare and contrast commonly assessed personality traits and individual difference variables, and will also be able to discuss intrapersonal and interpersonal outcomes associated with these variables.
- ✓ **PERSONALITY RESEARCH:** By the end of the course students will have a comprehensive understanding of how personality research in psychology is conducted, and be able to compare various personality assessment methods and personality-relevant research designs.
- ✓ **REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS:** By the end of this course students will be able to understand how classroom material applies to real world outcomes and how classroom material connects to life experiences.

4. DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

LECTURES: The course format will consist of live online lectures (i.e., synchronous lectures) hosted every week on Mondays and Wednesdays via Zoom. Lectures will run from 1:30 – 4:30pm EDT.

Zoom is a video conferencing service supported by Western University; therefore, every Western student has free access. Before each class, I will post a Zoom link on OWL Brightspace, and students will click on that link to join the Zoom meeting and listen and participate in the lecture. There are no labs or tutorials. Zoom lectures will not be recorded.

OWL BRIGHTSPACE COURSE SITE: Course outlines, lecture PowerPoint slides, rubrics, assessments, and grades will all be posted on the OWL Brightspace course site. I will also regularly post announcements, so please be sure to check frequently. If you have trouble accessing the course site, please send me an e-mail.

CONTACT: If you have any questions or would like to schedule an office hour, feel free to send me an email. *Please put "2550" in the email subject line.*

ACCOMMODATIONS: If you require any accommodations, please make the appropriate arrangements with your Academic Counsellor and/or contact me as soon as possible and *before* any deadlines. Please also refer to Huron's Policies regarding Academic Considerations and receiving accommodations.

COPYRIGHT: Please note that all classroom material including, but not limited to, lecture content, PowerPoint slides, readings, and all assessments are subject to copyright. It is forbidden to record lectures, share classroom material with individuals outside of the course, share classroom materials in any public domain, upload classroom materials online, sell classroom materials to any student or other third party, or distribute classroom materials in any manner without the explicit permission of the course instructor.

5. TEXTBOOK

Title: Personality Psychology Domains of Knowledge about Human Nature

Authors: Randy J. Larsen, David M. Buss, David B. King

Edition: Third Canadian Edition (this edition is required)

Note: The weekly reading schedule for this course will be posted on the course site.

6. METHODS OF EVALUATION

ASSESSMENT TYPE	PERCENTAGE OF GRADE	DUE
Midterm Exam	25%	May 29, 2024
Final Exam	40%	Final Exam Period
Research Proposal Idea	25%	June 19, 2024
Online Activities (5 total)	10%	Throughout the course

Students at Huron University College should consider a grade in the range from 70-74 to be evidence of satisfactory performance in a 2100-level Psychology course. Grades in the B+ (75-79) or A (80-89%) ranges will only be awarded for performance that is demonstrably superior to the second-year standard associated with the Major or Minor modules. A grade of A+ (90-100%) will only be awarded very rarely and only for work that is truly exceptional.

Midterm Exam & Final Exam (Total Worth: 65%)

This course contains two exams: Midterm Exam & Final Exam. Both exams will be open-book, take-home format (i.e., asynchronous). Both exams will contain short-answer and long-answer questions. Both exams will cover the lecture units leading up to that exam session and are designed to be non-cumulative. Please note that take-home format exams are not considered traditional exams.

The Midterm Exam and Final Exam are designed to be completed in 3 hours or less, however I have provided an almost 24-hour window for students to complete the exams (e.g., to accommodate any time zone differences, work-life conflicts).

(1) **Midterm Exam:** can be downloaded, worked on, and submitted between 12:00am and 11:55pm EDT on May 29, 2024.

(2) **Final Exam:** check the Exam Schedule/Class Announcements for the date and time of the Final Exam.

Students who need to miss an exam due to medical or compassionate reasons should follow the appropriate accommodation procedures.

Due to recent advances in technology, written responses to exams can only contain information that comes from what was discussed during lectures, the lecture slides, and the course textbook. Outside information (i.e., information that does not come from lecture content or the textbook) cannot be used to answer exam questions. Exam questions must be completed independently and written using your own words (you will be asked to submit the exam through plagiarism software). Any violations will result in grading or other penalties.

Research Proposal Idea (Total Worth: 25%)

This Research Proposal Idea assignment is a brief (*about 4 pages double-spaced*) written exercise that gives students the opportunity to develop a research study idea in Personality Psychology. This exercise encourages students to start becoming creators of knowledge in psychology.

For the research proposal, students will be asked to come up with their own research study idea in Personality Psychology. Students will be asked to develop a research study idea using a personality variable of their choosing.

A research proposal rubric outlining the marking scheme will be provided to students. It is important that the research proposal is an original piece of writing and uses proper referencing/citations (you will be asked to submit the research proposal through plagiarism software).

Online Activities (Total Worth: 10%)

Online Activities (OAs) provide creative ways of engaging with topics discussed during each lecture (e.g., discussing the real-world applications of lecture content). Each OA is worth 2% of your total grade. For each OA, students will be given a brief task or discussion question, and they will be asked to write a short response.

Students are required to participate in **5 Online Activities** throughout the course (worth 2% each). You will therefore need to complete 5 out of 10 possible OAs. You can choose which OAs to participate in, however only the first five OAs that you submit will be graded. Nevertheless, after completing five OAs, you can submit *one* extra OA to replace your lowest scoring OA grade.

Please ensure you have properly completed five OAs before the end of term, as there are no make-up OAs. OAs will be graded (assigned a grade out of 2) according to the quality of the OA response and held to an appropriate average. A grading rubric will be provided to students.

An OA will be available on the course website before each lecture for Lectures 1 to 10. You will have until Friday night at 11:55pm of each week to complete the one or two assigned OAs associated with that week. Please make sure to submit your OA(s) on the course website before the deadline of 11:55pm every Friday.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION TRACKER

Online Activity	Due Date	Submitted? (5 mandatory + 1 extra)
Online Activity 1	11:55pm on Friday May 17, 2024	
Online Activity 2	11:55pm on Friday May 17, 2024	
Online Activity 3	11:55pm on Friday May 24, 2024	
Online Activity 4	11:55pm on Friday May 31, 2024	
Online Activity 5	11:55pm on Friday June 7, 2024	
Online Activity 6	11:55pm on Friday June 7, 2024	
Online Activity 7	11:55pm on Friday June 14, 2024	
Online Activity 8	11:55pm on Friday June 14, 2024	
Online Activity 9	11:55pm on Friday June 21, 2024	
Online Activity 10	11:55pm on Friday June 21, 2024	

7. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

The following schedule is a guideline only and may be subject to change. Please ensure you monitor announcements on OWL in order to receive updates about any revisions.

WEEK	DATE	LECTURE	TOPIC	DUE THIS WEEK
1	May 13	Lecture 1	Introduction to the Course & Personality	1. Online Activity 1 2. Online Activity 2
	May 15	Lecture 2	Psychoanalytic & Humanistic Theories	
2	May 20	<i>No Lecture</i>	<i>VICTORIA DAY</i>	1. Online Activity 3
	May 22	Lecture 3	Behaviorist & Social-Cognitive Theories	
3	May 27	Lecture 4	Trait Theories	1. Midterm Exam 2. Online Activity 4
	May 29	<i>No Lecture</i>	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>	
4	June 3	Lecture 5	Personality Research & Assessment	1. Online Activity 5 2. Online Activity 6
	June 5	Lecture 6	Personality & Self	
5	June 10	Lecture 7	Personality & Others	1. Online Activity 7 2. Online Activity 8
	June 12	Lecture 8	Personality & Environments	
6	June 17	Lecture 9	Intelligences (<i>guest lecture by Dr. Tony Vernon + brief regular lecture</i>)	1. Research Proposal Idea 2. Online Activity 9 3. Online Activity 10
	June 19	Lecture 10	Answering Questions About Personality	
7	June 24-25	<i>No Lecture</i>	<i>FINAL EXAM PERIOD</i>	1. Final Exam