



Psychology 2550A, Section 550

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research

Intersession Term 2023

(Lectures run May 15 – June 23)

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

Scheduled classes: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm (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 OWL site.

Course website: The course website is the OWL site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/>

Office hours: After class or by appointment. Students can email me if they have any questions or 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 personality 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, 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 COURSE SITE: Course outlines, lecture PowerPoint slides, rubrics, and grades will all be posted on the course website on OWL. I will also be regularly posting announcements on OWL, so please be sure to check OWL regularly for announcements or changes to the lecture schedule. If you have trouble accessing OWL, 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 EMAIL” as the subject line for all emails.

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, lectures, PowerPoint slides, readings, and all evaluations 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

The textbook for this course is the following e-book:

Title: Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature
Authors: Randy J. Larsen, David M. Buss, David King, Carolyn Ensley
Edition: 2nd Canadian Edition (this edition is required)

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=B2023&courses%5B0%5D=550_HC/PSY2550A

Note: the weekly reading schedule for this course will be posted on OWL

6. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Midterm Exam: 25% (Due: May 31, 2023 at 11:55pm)

Final Exam: 40% (Due: During the Final Exam Period)

Brief Research Proposal: 25% (Due: June 21, 2023 at 11:55pm)

Online Activities: 10% (Due: 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 (to accommodate any time zone differences, work-life conflicts, or any other issues).

(1) **Midterm Exam**: can be downloaded, worked on, and submitted between 12:00am and 11:55pm EDT on May 31, 2023.

(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, and 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 penalties.

Brief Research Proposal (Total Worth: 25%)

This brief research proposal (4 pages double-spaced in length) will give 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 idea for a Personality Psychology research study. Students will be asked to choose a personality variable(s) that interests them and develop a research study idea using that variable(s).

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 classroom content. Each OA is worth 2% of your grade. For each OA, students will be given a discussion question or a brief task, 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). They can choose which OA to participate in, however only the first five completed OAs will be graded. However, after participating in all five OAs, students can participate in one extra OA to replace their lowest 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.

OAs will become available on OWL after class each Monday and Wednesday for Lectures 1 through 8. Students will have the rest of the week to work on the OA(s) they chose, and they will be due Sunday at 11:55pm on that given week.

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	Lecture	Date	Lecture Topic	Due This Week
Week 1	1	May 15	Introduction to the Course & Personality	Online Activity 1
	2	May 17	Psychodynamic Theories	Online Activity 2
Week 2		May 22	NO LECTURE – VICTORIA DAY	
	3	May 24	Behaviorist & Social-Cognitive Theories	Online Activity 3
Week 3	4	May 29	Humanistic & Trait Theories	Online Activity 4
		May 31	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 4	5	June 5	Personality Research	Online Activity 5
	6	June 7	Personality Assessment	Online Activity 6
Week 5	7	June 12	Personality & Self	Online Activity 7
	8	June 14	Personality & Others	Online Activity 8
Week 6	9	June 19	Intelligences (<i>includes a guest lecture by Dr. Tony Vernon</i>)	
	10	June 21	Answering Questions About Personality	Brief Research Proposal
Final Exam Period: June 26 - June 27				
FINAL EXAM				

8.0 Academic Policies

Statement Regarding Academic Accommodation in Psychology at Huron University College

In the Department of Psychology at Huron, courses are structured to allow students as much flexibility as possible. In the event of an acute medical illness or other personal emergency, students must request academic consideration as per Western Academic Senate Policy. The instructor must indicate on the course outline how accommodations are granted and arranged.

Student requests for academic consideration/accommodation for missed work must be submitted in a timely manner, typically no more than 48 hours after the missed evaluation. Requests submitted more than 48 hours after the missed evaluation will normally require a formal recommendation from an Academic Advisor.

For missed coursework worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course, students should contact the instructor in writing as soon as possible to arrange for accommodation. In cases where accommodation is granted, the instructor will inform the student in writing what accommodation will be granted (e.g. makeup test, reweighting missed evaluation, accept late assignment).

For missed coursework worth 10% or more of the overall grade in a course, students must contact their home faculty Academic Advising office with appropriate documentation (at Huron, this is Huron's Academic Advising Office; if you are a student at a different campus, contact your academic advisor at your home campus).

In the Department of Psychology, if accommodation is granted, students will typically be granted an extension of 48 hours for written essays and reports from the time when accommodation is granted in writing, unless otherwise discussed with the course instructor. The typical accommodation for missed tests will be reweighting of the course grade, unless otherwise discussed with the course instructor. Instructors may request further documentation to approve accommodations.

Students should refer to the following for more information regarding academic consideration and accommodation:

Western Senate Policy regarding Accommodation for Medical Illness

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Huron Academic Advising

<https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/faq/>

Statement Regarding Grades in Psychology at Huron University College

The following statement must be included in all course outlines at the 2100-level

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.

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2023

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: Academic Calendar - Western University (uwo.ca) . The appeals process is also outlined in this

policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad

outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website

at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)