



**Psychology 2550A, Section 550**  
**Introduction to Personality Theory and Research**  
**Intersession 2022 (May 16 - June 24)**

## **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
- Course website:** OWL Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/>
- Scheduled classes:** Mondays and Wednesdays - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (EDT)
- Class Location:** Live online lectures (i.e., synchronous lectures) hosted Monday and Wednesdays via Zoom.
- 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, and also 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. 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 you 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:** Outlines of the course, lecture PowerPoint slides, evaluations, other classroom materials, lecture information, 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. For individuals who were not able to attend the Zoom lecture for valid reasons and who received permission, I will have available a detailed version of the lecture PowerPoint slides that will contain comprehensive notes. These notes will give a good overview of that lecture and will cover all the necessary information.

**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 material in any public domain, upload classroom material online, sell classroom material to any student or other third party, or distribute classroom material 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 King, Carolyn Ensley

**Edition:** 2nd Canadian Edition (this edition is required)

Found at the Western Bookstore website: [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=B2022&courses%5B0%5D=550\\_HC/PSY2550A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=B2022&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: June 1, 2022 at 11:55pm)

**Final Exam:** 40% (Due: Final Exam Period)

**Research Proposal:** 25% (Due: June 19, 2022 at 11:55pm)

**Discussions:** 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%)

Both the Midterm and Final Exam will be take-home format, open-book exams (i.e., asynchronous) containing short-answer and long-answer questions. Exam questions will ask you to write responses that describe, apply, compare and contrast, or evaluate classroom material (including lecture content and readings). Therefore, these questions will not be memorization based.

Each exam will cover the lecture units leading up to that exam session. The exams are designed to be non-cumulative. However, due to the nature of the field of psychology, there may be overlap in concepts, ideas, and continuity of theory. Please note that take-home format exams are not considered traditional exams.

Exams will be open-book, so you will have access to all your readings, lecture content, and notes. You cannot use non-course material to answer exam questions. It is important that you work on this exam alone, and that you write all of your answers completely using your own words (you will be asked to submit the exam through Turnitin). Graded exams will not be returned to the students, although the scoring for a given exam can be checked with the instructor.

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). The window of time to write the Midterm Exam will be from 12:00am to 11:55pm EDT, and please check the Exam Schedule/Class Announcements for the date and time of the Final Exam.

If you miss an exam due to medical or compassionate reasons, please follow the appropriate accommodation procedures. Students who receive approval to write a makeup exam may reach out to the instructor to schedule a makeup exam time.

### **Research Proposal (Total Worth: 25%)**

The brief research proposal (four pages double-spaced in length) will give students the opportunity to apply what was learned in class and develop their own ideas for a research study in the area of Personality Psychology. This is a useful exercise that will help students to start thinking as creators of knowledge, and help prepare students for any future psychology research work.

For the research proposal, students will be asked to come up with a novel idea for a psychology research study. The research topic has to be relevant to the area of Personality Psychology and can include any of the personality variables discussed in class or any personality variables approved by the course instructor. The research design of the proposed study can be quantitative or qualitative in nature. 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 Turnitin).

### **Discussions (Total Worth: 10%)**

Discussions in the course will be assessed through participation in online discussion forums on OWL. After each class, the instructor will create a discussion forum on OWL and post a discussion question.

Students are required to participate in **five discussions** throughout the course (worth 2% each). You can choose which discussions to participate in, however only five discussions will be graded. However, after participating in all five discussions, I will allow students to participate in one extra discussion to replace their lowest discussion grade. Please ensure you have properly completed five discussions before the end of term, as there are no make-up discussions.

Participation in discussions consists of providing **two responses**:

ONE ORIGINAL RESPONSE: a response to that week's discussion question.

ONE CLASSMATE RESPONSE: a response to a classmate.

Students will be asked to respond by writing 200 – 350 words in response to the discussion question and to also write 200 – 350 words in response to one of their classmate's answers. Discussion posts will be graded (assigned a grade out of 2) according to the quality of the discussion posts and held to an appropriate average. A grading rubric will be provided before the first discussion opens.

Discussions will be posted after class for Lectures 1 to 10. Discussion forums will open after class on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will close every Friday at 11:55pm on that given week. Responses submitted after the forum has closed will not be graded.

## 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.

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Lecture 1: May 16</b> Introduction to the Course & Personality	<b>Lecture 2: May 18</b> Psychodynamic Theories
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>No Lecture: May 23</b> Victoria Day	<b>Lecture 3: May 25</b> Behaviorist & Social-Cognitive Theories
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Lecture 4: May 30</b> Humanistic & Trait Theories	<b>No Lecture: June 1</b> <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Lecture 5: June 6</b> Personality Research & Assessment	<b>Lecture 6: June 8</b> Intelligences <i>Guest Lecture: Dr. Tony Vernon</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Lecture 7: June 13</b> Personality & Self	<b>Lecture 8: June 15</b> Personality & Others
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Lecture 9: June 20</b> Personality & Our Environment	<b>Lecture 10: June 22</b> Answering Questions About Personality
<b>Final Exam Period: June 27 – 28</b> <b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2022**

### **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:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **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:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). 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](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, 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

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

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, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, 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) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto: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 where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. 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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult **Huron Academic Advising** at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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>

### **Mental Health & Wellness Support 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. 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](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

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