

PSY230H5F – Introduction to Personality

WEDNESDAY 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Room Location: DV 2072 (Davis Building)

Contact Information

[Need help? Please check Quercus first!]
[post general questions on the discussion board]
[if information is not available, email your TA]
[email me to request individual appointments]

Dr. Ulrich Schimmack
e-mail: ulrich.schimmack@utoronto.ca
[include PSY230 in subject line]
Office Hours: WE: 10-12, TH:1-2

Teaching Assistants

Jason Payne
[TBA](#)

Nathan Leonhardt
nathan.leonhardt@mail.utoronto.ca

Natalie Sisson
n.sisson@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

To learn about the field of personality psychology and individual differences in psychological characteristics. This course on personality psychology takes a variable centred approach. It examines how personality psychologists characterize and measure individual differences, the biological and psychological causes of individual differences, and consequences of individual differences for important aspects of lives (happiness, work, marriage).

Course Evaluation

To obtain a grade in this course, you have to be formally enrolled in this course. Please check your enrollment status for this course.

In accordance with UTM grading guidelines, my grading scheme is designed to yield approximately 30% As and 40% Bs. **However, I will not bell-curve exams. If you do exceptionally well, I will give more As and Bs.** Grades are based on the following point system.

- 1. Participation!!! (10%)** Participation requires attendance in class and answering questions during lectures using the IClicker responder. Correct and incorrect responses count equally towards your participation mark. You need to have an 80% response rate or more to get 10%. Response rates of less than 80% receive participation marks in proportion to the response rate (e.g., 65% response rate = 6.5% towards the final grade). Response rates below 50% receive 0% for participation. IF YOUR PARTICIPATION MARK is lower than your performance on the exams, your participation mark will be automatically adjusted to your performance on the exams.
- 2. There will be three in-class term tests. The first and second term test consist of 20 multiple choice questions and a 1-page IN CLASS ESSAY (20% points for MC and 5% for essay) for a combined 50% of your final mark.**
- 3. The final during exams period consists of 40 multiple choice questions and is worth 40%.**

Each test period will last 1 and ½ hours during the first 1 ½ hours of class. There will be lectures after class.

The essay questions will be posted one week before the exam. You have time to prepare for your essay and then write it in class.

Final Mark = 10% Participation + 25% Test 1 + 25% Test 2 + 40% Final = 100%

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the following help site: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-quercus-guide>

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Students are to submit original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) to the Psychology Academic Counselor or drop it in the drop box located outside the Psychology office, Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students have up-to one week from the date of the missed test to submit request. Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness.

Medical certificates or physician's notes must be completed by the Physician and MUST include the statement "This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one the day of the missed term test. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable. For further information on this procedure please see: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology/undergraduate-studies/missed-testslate-submissions>

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by the UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre.

IMPORTANT: The Department of Psychology verifies the authenticity of medical certificates by contacting medical offices. Students are NOT to make any changes or alteration to completed medical certificates. Students who submit forged or altered documentation are subject to severe academic penalties.

If your request is approved by the department, the value of the test will be redistributed to the final examination.

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions>

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students>. Common trends in academic offences:

- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

AccessAbility Services

Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Important Dates

September 11: First meeting of class
October 16: No class
October 9: First Term Test
November 13: Second Term Test
December 4: Last Meeting of Class

Course Outline

September 11

L01: Introduction

"Does my personality fit this course?"

- Course Outline
- What is personality psychology?

L02: Scientific Methods I

"How can scientists study my personality?"

- Correlation coefficient
- Reliability

September 18

L03: Scientific Methods II

"Can I trust scientific theories of personality?"

- Validity
- Causality

L04: Structure

"How can scientists describe my personality?"

- How do we describe human diversity?
- How did we end up with the Big Five?
- Hierarchical models of personality.

September 25

GUEST LECTURE BY PROF CARLSON

L05: Measurement I

"How can scientists measure my personality?"

- How well do you know yourself and others?
- Self-reports, Informant Reports

L06: Measurement II

"How do I reveal my personality to others?"

- Everyday Cues of Personality
- Observation of Behaviors / Self-Observations

October 2

L07: Personality and Situations I

- *"What makes me behave the way I do?"*
- Attributions: Lay Explanations of Behavior
- Was it personality or the situation?
- Cross-situational consistency

L08: Personality and Situations II

- *"Do I have different personalities in different situations?"*
- Person x Situation Interaction

October 9

!!! TERM-TEST 1 !!!

L09: Stability

- *"What will my personality be like 20 years from now?"*
- Rank-order Stability
- Absolute Stability

October 16 Fall Reading Week!!!! NO CLASSES !!!!

October 23

L10: Personality and Evolution

- *"Was my personality determined 40,000 years ago?"*
- Sex differences in sexuality
- Other sex differences

L11: Personality and Genetics I

- Was my personality determined at the moment of my conception?

- Basic principles of behavioural genetics

October 30

L12: Personality and Genetics II

- Basic findings in behavioural genetics research
- Molecular genetics and personality

L13: Personality in the Brain and Body

- *"How is my personality influenced by my brain and body?"*
- Biological theory of neuroticism
- Testosterone

November 6

L14: Personality and Culture

- *"How is my personality influenced by the culture I grew up in?"*
- Cross-cultural differences in personality
- Historic cultural changes and personality

L15: Motivation I

"What do I want?"

- Human needs, motives, and values
- Cultural influences on motivation

November 13

!!!! TERM TEST 2 !!!!

L16: Motivation II

"What should I do when two sides of my personality want me to do different things?"

- Repression
- Self-Regulation
- Positive Illusions

November 20

L17: Cognition I:

"Knowing yourself"

- Implicit Personality Measures

L18: Cognition II

"How intelligent am I really?"

- Measurement of intelligence
- Causes of Intelligence
- Consequences of intelligence

November 27

L19: Personality and Life Outcomes I

"How does my personality influence health and social relationships?"

- Personality and Longevity
- Personality and Marriage

L20: Personality and Life Outcomes II

"How does my personality influence my happiness?"

- Top-Down and Bottom-Up Models
- Personality and Environmental Causes

December 4:

L21: Personality and Work

L22: Review