

# PSY430H5 S – Special Topics in Personality

Wednesday 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Room MN 3295 (Maanjiwe Nendamowinan)

## Contact Information

Please email your TA first with general questions.

**Dr. Ulrich Schimmack**

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(include PSY430 in subject line)

**Office Hours:** WE1-3pm

**Teaching Assistant**

**Jason Payne**

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**Office Hours:** T.B.D

## Course Description

This course offers an In depth examination of selected topics in personality.

The focus is on cutting edge research in personality psychology as published in recent or seminal articles in the top journals of the field (e.g., Journal of Personality and Social Psychology). The course examines fundamental research questions (e.g., state vs. trait, causal modeling of correlations, mediation vs. moderation, genetic vs. environmental causes of individual differences, etc.)

## 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 Canvas; 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/>

## Reading Material

The course is based on readings of original research articles.

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## Course Evaluation

The evaluation in this course is based on oral and written participation.

20% of the mark is based on active oral participation in class discussions. Evaluations are based on quantity and quality of participation. The best 8 marks will be used for the participation mark (You can miss some classes).

Marking scheme:

0% = Did not come to class

25% = Did come to class, but didn't participate actively (say something)

50% = Did come to class and participated at least once.

70% = Did come to class and made several contributions to class discussion.

90% = Did come to class and made several original contributions to class discussion.

40% of the mark is based on written answers to posted questions and online discussion.

40% of the mark is based on a term paper on a select topic in personality research. The term paper should be 8-12 pages long (excluding title page, abstract, and reference list). It should be written with 1-inch margins, font 12, and double-spaced. 5%-points of the term paper marks are based on an outline of the term paper due by February 1. 10%-points of the term paper are based on a draft of the term paper due by March 1. 15%-points of the term paper are due for the final term paper due by April 1. All submissions are done electronically through Quercus.

Students have to notify me as soon as possible to request extensions of deadlines if they have a valid reason to do so, at least four days before a deadline. Illness or computer problems during the last four days before a deadline are not valid excuses!

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## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES \*\*PLEASE READ\*\*

### 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, verification of extenuating circumstances form, 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.

### **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/>

### **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>.

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

## 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](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto: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.

## Course Outline

M01: January 08

**- Introduction;  
Non-Experimental Psychology**

M02: January 15

**- Construct Validity**

Schimmack, U. (2011) What Multi-Method Data Tell Us About Construct Validity. *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY* (Volume: 24 Issue: 3) Pages: 241-257.

M03: January 22

**Multi-Method Measurement of Big 5**

Anusic et al. (2009). The Nature and Structure of Correlations Among Big Five Ratings: The Halo-Alpha-Beta Model. *JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (Volume: 97 Issue: 6) 1142-1156.

M04: January 29

**Multi-Method Studies with Implicit Measures**

Schimmack, U. (2019). The Implicit Association Test. A measure in search of a construct. *PERSPECTIVES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE*

M05: February 5

**Stability of Personality and Well-Being**

Anusic & Schimmack (2016) Stability and Change of Personality Traits, Self-Esteem, and Well-Being: Introducing the Meta-Analytic Stability and Change Model of Retest Correlations

M06: February 12

**Stability of Cognition: Chronic Accessibility**

Schimmack & Oishi (2005). The influence of chronically and temporarily accessible information on life satisfaction judgments. *JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY*, 89, 395-406)

**February 19 (Reading Week)**

M07: February 26

**Structure of Affect I**

Schimmack & Grob (2000). Dimensional models of core affect: A quantitative comparison by means of structural equation modeling *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY* (Volume: 14 Issue: 4) 325-34.

**Structure of Affect II: Mixed Feelings**

Pleasure, displeasure, and mixed feelings: Are semantic opposites mutually exclusive? *COGNITION & EMOTION*, 15, 81-97.

M08 - March 4

**Self-Enhancement and Well-Being I**

Kim, H., Schimmack, U. & Oishi, S. (2012). Cultural Differences in Self- and Other-Evaluations and Well-Being: A Study of European and Asian Canadians

*JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (Volume: 102 Issue: 4). 856-873.

**Self-Enhancement and Well-Being II**

Schimmack, U. & Kim, H. (2019). An Integrated Model of Social Psychological and Personality Psychological Perspectives on Personality and Wellbeing. *Journal of Research in Personality*.

M09 – March 11

**Romantic Relationships and Well-Being I**

Schimmack, U. & Lucas, R.E. (2010). Environmental Influences on Well-Being: A Dyadic Latent Panel Analysis of Spousal Similarity. *SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH* (Volume: 98 Issue: 1 ). 1-21.

**Romantic Relationships and Well-Being II**

Muise, A., Schimmack, U., & Impett, E. A. (2016). Sexual Frequency Predicts Greater Well-Being, But More is Not Always Better. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 7(4), 295–302.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550615616462>

M10 – March 18

**Culture and Well-Being**

Culture, personality, and subjective well-being: Integrating process models of life satisfaction *JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (Volume: 82 – Issue 4) 582-593.

M11 – March 25

**Growth-Modeling of Well-Being**

Nakazato et al. (2011). Effect of Changes in Living Conditions on Well-Being: A Prospective Top-Down Bottom-Up Model. *SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH* (Volume 100, Issue 1), 115-135

M12 – April 01

**Presentation and Discussion of Term Papers**

