

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research
Psychology 2550B, section 530
Dr. John Mitchell
2016-17

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history, methodology and content of the study of individual differences. Topics to be covered include: evaluation of typical personality assessment methods and a consideration of modern empirical research in personality theory and assessment.

Antirequisites: Psychology 2050 if taken before 2016

Prerequisite: At least 60% in a 1000-level Psychology course.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John Mitchell
Office: BR 221
E-mail: jbmitche@uwo.ca
Telephone: Ext. 28116

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 – 10:00, and by appointment.

Class: Tuesday, 4:30 – 5:30, BR 304
Thursday, 3:30 – 5:30. BR 304

TEXTBOOK (Required): Friedman, H. S. and Schustack, M. W. (2016). *Personality: Classic Theories and Modern Research, Sixth Edition*. Allyn & Bacon.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- describe the different methods used to study personality and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each approach;
- be able to define personality, including the assumptions that underlie the study of human personality;
- describe the main theoretical perspectives on personality;
- be able to compare and contrast the main theories of personality, including how these theories inter-relate.

The study of Human Personality also contributes to the **Brescia Competencies** of:

- *Self Awareness and Development*; learning about the structure and function of personality contributes to our self knowledge
- *Social Awareness and Engagement*: we are highly social animals and spend considerable time and effort trying to understand the behaviour of others. Knowledge of human personality contributes to our understanding of others.
- *Inquiry and Analysis*: With few exceptions, the study of personality is based on the acquisition and interpretation of scientific evidence, an activity at the core of Inquiry and Analysis.
- *Critical Thinking*: As you will discover in this course, there are many different theories of human personality. Learning to critically evaluate the experimental evidence and logic supporting each of the contrasting theories calls upon the use of Critical Thinking.

EVALUATION

Test 1 is scheduled for Feb. 2, in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the corresponding classes. Test 1 contributes 30% of your course grade.

Test 2 is scheduled for March 9 in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 5, 6, and 7 and the corresponding classes. Test 2 contributes 30% of your course grade.

Final Examination will be held during the April examination period as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The Final Exam will be based on Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 12 and the corresponding classes. The Final exam contributes 40% of your course grade.

Evaluation Summary	Test 1,	Feb 2	30%
	Test 2,	Mar. 9	30%
	Final Exam,	Final Exam Period	40%

Tests and exam will include multiple choice questions and short answer questions. More details about the tests and exam will be discussed as we approach them in the schedule. Tests and the final exam are **not** cumulative.

Please note that there are no extra credit assignments or additional work for bonus marks. Your mark in the course will be the mark that you earn on the tests and final exam.

The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASS

You are welcome to use your laptops, tablets and other devices in class to assist your learning. However, if you are going to use Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, watch YouTube, or browse various websites not related to course content, please sit at the back or edges of the classroom.

Research has shown that non-academic use of laptops and smartphones during class has a negative correlation with exam grades (Ravizza, Hambrick, & Fenn, 2014). That is, the more students use their devices in class on non-class tasks, the lower their marks on tests and exams,

regardless of intellectual ability. What I find even more concerning is that not only do those students have lower marks, the students sitting behind them who can be distracted by their screens also score significantly lower on tests (Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013).

If you choose to hurt your own academic performance, that is your decision. However, if in doing so you compromise the experience and success of those sitting near you, that is not acceptable. It is a matter of respect of your classmates.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
January 5	Opening Class: What is Personality	1
10, 12	The Study and Assessment of Personality	2
17, 19	Psychoanalytic Aspects	3
24, 26	Neo-analytic and Ego Aspects	4
31	Biological Aspects	5
February 2	<i>Test 1</i>	-
7, 9	Biological Aspects	5
14, 16	Behaviorist and Learning Aspects	6
21, 23	<i>Reading Week</i>	-
28	Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects	7
March 2	Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects	7
7	Traits	8
9	<i>Test 2</i>	
14	Trait Aspects	8
16, 21	Humanistic and Existential Aspects	9
23, 28	Person-Situation Interactions	10
30	Stress	12
April 4	Stress	12
6	Last Class, Summing up	-

Topics will be covered in the order given above. You should do the assigned reading before that topic is covered in class. In class, I will discuss those parts of the chapter that I feel are the most important, most difficult, or the most interesting. For chapters that are on the class schedule *you are responsible for the entire chapter*, including sections that we do not cover in class. You are not responsible for chapters that do not appear in the class schedule.

2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html>. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). 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 eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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 Web site:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she

may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>)

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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 prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.