

**Introduction to Personality Theory and Research**  
**Psychology 2550A, section 530**  
**2017-2018**

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**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.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Instructor: Elizabeth Kelly

E-mail: ekelly6@uwo.ca

Office: TBA

Office Hours: Monday 11:30am-12:30pm and by appointment.

Time and Location of Lecture: Monday 10:30am-11:30am and Wednesday 9:30am-11:30am (BR202)

**COURSE MATERIALS**

- Textbook (Required): Friedman, H. S. and Schustack, M. W. (2016). *Personality: Classic theories and modern research* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson.
- Other course information and materials, such as announcements, grades, and lecture slides, will be posted on OWL. Note that lecture slides are outlines only and cannot take the place of attending lectures.

**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;

- define personality, including the assumptions that underlie the study of human personality;
- describe the main theoretical perspectives on personality;
- compare and contrast the main theories of personality, including how these theories inter-relate.

The study of Human Personality 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

Your grade in this course will be based on marks received for **three exams**. The course will be divided into three sections and there will be an exam after each section. Exams are **not cumulative**.

Exams 1 and 2 have been tentatively scheduled during regularly scheduled class time. Exam 3 will be held during the December examination period (date, time, and place to be announced once scheduled by the university registrar). Each exam is **2-hours**.

The exams will consist of **multiple choice and short answer questions** based on information provided in the textbook as well as material covered in the lectures. All exams will be **closed book** - no texts, notes, calculators, electronic dictionaries, or aids of any type will be allowed.

**Course grades** will be calculated as follows. Exams 1 is worth 30% of the course grade. Exam 2 and Exam 3 are each worth 35% of the course grade. 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 exams.

**Requests for academic accommodation** to write make-up tests for missed exams must be made to one's Academic Advisor and supported by documentation (see the policy at the end of the course outline).

Evaluation	%	Content	Date and Time
Exam 1	30%	Ch. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Oct. 4 (Wed.) - 9:30-11:30am
Exam 2	35%	Ch. 5, 6, 7, & 8	Nov. 15 (Wed.) - 9:30-11:30am
Exam 3	35%	Ch. 9, 10, 11, & 14	TBA (scheduled by the university registrar)

The following university **grading guidelines** will be adhered to when marking exams.

#### Grade Percent Description

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

## SCHEDULE

Date	Topic(s)	Reading
Sept. 11 (Mon.)	Course overview	
Sept. 13 (Wed.)	Introduction to the psychology of personality	Ch. 1
Sept. 18 (Mon.)	Measuring personality - assessment issues and tools	Ch. 2
Sept. 20 (Wed.)	Studying personality - research methods and design	Ch. 2
Sept. 25 (Mon.)	Psychoanalytic aspects - Freudian concepts and processes	Ch. 3
Sept. 27 (Wed.)	Neo-analytic and ego aspects - post-Freudian approaches	Ch. 4
Oct. 2 (Mon.)	Modern psychoanalytic developments	Ch. 3 & 4
Oct. 4 (Wed.)	Exam 1	
Oct. 9 (Mon.)	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
Oct. 11 (Wed.)	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>	
Oct. 16 (Mon.)	Biological aspects - evolutionary views	Ch. 5
Oct. 18 (Wed.)	Biological aspects - genetic effects	Ch. 5
Oct. 23 (Mon.)	Behaviourist aspects - key figures and conditioning principles	Ch. 6
Oct. 25 (Wed.)	Behaviourist aspects - other learning theories and applications	Ch. 6
Oct. 30 (Mon.)	Cognitive aspects	Ch. 7
Nov. 1 (Wed.)	Social-cognitive aspects	Ch. 7
Nov. 6 (Mon.)	Trait aspects - classic trait approaches	Ch. 8
Nov. 8 (Wed.)	Trait aspects - contemporary trait approaches and applications in workplace contexts	Ch. 8
Nov. 13 (Mon.)	Trait aspects - motives, styles, and skills	Ch. 8
Nov. 15 (Wed.)	Exam 2	
Nov. 20 (Mon.)	Existential and humanistic aspects	Ch. 9
Nov. 22 (Wed.)	Positive aspects & Person-situation interactionist aspects - interactionist approaches	Ch. 9 & 10
Nov. 27 (Mon.)	Person-situation interactionist aspects - situational constraints and considerations	Ch. 10
Nov. 29 (Wed.)	Understanding individual well-being & Understanding love and hate	Ch. 14
Dec. 4 (Mon.)	Gender differences & Cultural differences	Ch. 11
Dec. 6 (Wed.)	Integration of perspectives & Future directions	
TBA	Exam 3	

## 2017-18 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.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). 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://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

### 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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). 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://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

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 (<http://www.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://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices

([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

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).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **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 <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental\_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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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.