



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 383 (L01) – Personality**  
**Fall Session 2008**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Terry J. Prociuk	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	MFH 164
<b>Phone:</b>	220-2242	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	TR 3:30 – 4:45 PM
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<b>Office:</b>	Admin. 257D		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 2:30 – 3:15 PM		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

Personality can be defined as a pattern of characteristic thoughts, feelings, and behaviours which distinguishes one person from another. This course will provide an overview of four major approaches to studying personality: psychoanalytic; dispositional; phenomenological; and, social cognitive. Representative theories will be examined, and the different approaches will be evaluated to determine their strengths and limitations. Related methods for measuring personality and research support for each approach will be considered. Also, contemporary issues and areas of current research in personality will be discussed. Course material will be drawn from various sources with the goal of providing students with a broad perspective to the field of personality psychology. Course announcements, assignments, test scores, etc. will be posted on BlackBoard at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Required Text**

Leibert, R.M., & Spiegler, M.D. (1998). *Personality: Strategies and Issues* (8th Ed). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. Available at the University Bookstore.

### **Evaluation**

There will be two term tests and a part-cumulative final examination. Dates and percentage weights are as follows: Term Test 1 on October 9, 2008, worth 30% of final grade; Term Test 2 on October 30, 2008, worth 25% of final grade; and Final Exam on date to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office worth 45% of final grade. Both term tests and the final exam (all in multiple-choice format) will be based on textbook chapters and lecture material and will be designed to evaluate content knowledge (i.e., facts) as well as process knowledge (i.e., application of principles and concepts). Reading textbook chapters before class as well as regular attendance will be important to gain maximum benefit from this course. Students will also have the option of completing up to three specifically developed "learn and earn" assignments involving brief written reports and, if chosen, oral presentations to the class on issues related to personality theory, measurement, and current areas of research. Specific details will be presented in class and will also be posted on BlackBoard. In brief, by completing these optional "learn and earn" assignments, students will be able to earn marks which will be added to those obtained on the two term tests and on the final exam. Specifically, by completing the first "learn and earn" assignment (due on September 25, 2008) students will be able to earn up to 4 percentage marks which will be added to the percentage mark obtained on Term Test 1 (e.g., a mark of 86% obtained on Term Test 1 could be increased up to a mark of 90%). Similarly, by completing the second "learn and earn" assignment (due on October 23, 2008) students will be able to earn up to 5 percentage marks which will be added to the percentage mark obtained on Term Test 2; and, by completing the third "learn and earn" assignment (due on November 27, 2008) students will be able to earn up to 3 percentage marks which will be added to the percentage mark obtained on the final exam. Additional marks credited for any of these "learn and earn" assignments will not, however, result in a percentage mark on a term test or on the final exam exceeding

100%. All "learn and earn" assignments must be submitted in hardcopy only (e-mailed submissions will not be accepted) by no later than the end of lecture on the specified due date for each assignment. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Grading Scale

A+ : 96 - 100%	B+ : 80 - 84%	C+ : 67 - 71%	D+ : 54 - 58%
A : 90 - 95%	B : 76 - 79%	C : 63 - 66%	D : 50 - 53%
A- : 85 - 89%	B- : 72 - 75%	C- : 59 - 62%	F : 0 - 49%

**Grading Scale Note:** As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. In this course, to determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A, but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Lecture Schedule

Class Date	Course Topic	Text Reading
Sep 9	Introduction to Personality	Ch 1
Sep 11 - 16	Methods of Studying Personality	Ch 2
Sep 18 - Oct 7	Psychoanalytic Strategy	Ch 3 - 6
<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Term Test 1</b>	
Oct 14 - 28	Dispositional Strategy	Ch 7 - 10
<b>Oct 30</b>	<b>Term Test 2</b>	
Nov 4	Representational Strategy	Ch 15
Nov 4 - 6	Phenomenological Approach	Ch 16
<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day (University Closed)</b>	
Nov 13 - 18	Phenomenological Approach Cont'd	
Nov 18 - Dec 2	Social Cognitive Approach	Ch 13, 17 - 18
Dec 2	Contemporary Issues and Research	
Dec 4	Future Directions	Ch 19
<b>Dec 8 - 17</b>	<b>Final Examination Period (Exam to be scheduled by Registrar)</b>	

**Note:** The above lecture schedule may be modified from time to time as circumstances warrant. Students will be advised of any changes that are made.

### University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

This course addresses the following core competencies:

- Critical thinking
- Analysis of problems
- Effective oral and written communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Interpretive and assessment skills

With the following course characteristics:

- Video presentations and in-class discussions will be used to stimulate critical thinking about the various theoretical approaches to personality.
- "Challenge questions" will be used throughout the course requiring students to analyze and determine similarities and differences among the theories of personality and its measurement.
- Specifically developed "learn and earn" experiences will be used to encourage students to examine issues related to personality theory, measurement, and contemporary areas of research and to prepare brief written and oral presentations on their work.
- A number of personality scales will be completed in class, and students will be involved in scoring and interpreting their responses.

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of the term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections in the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty, and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

*It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation.* If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam. A completed Physician/Counsellor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician or Counsellor Statement.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally-approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **December 4, 2008**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration Building, Room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **September 19, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2008**.