



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Department of Psychology
Psychology 383 (L01) – Personality
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Terry J. Prociuk
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Office: Admin. 257D
Office Hours: TR 2:30 – 3:15 PM

Lecture Location: Admin. 142
Lecture Days/Time: TR 3:30 – 4:45 PM

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 theoretical approaches to studying personality: psychodynamic; dispositional; phenomenological/humanistic; and, social learning/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, some contemporary issues and areas of current research as well as possible future directions for personality theorizing will be discussed. The overall goals of this course are to provide students with a sound conceptual understanding of the evolution of theory, measurement, and research in this important field of psychology, and to stimulate critical thinking regarding the contribution that each theoretical approach has made to our understanding of personality.

Instructional Approach

Lecture material will be drawn from various sources with the aim of providing students with a broad and current perspective to the general field of personality psychology. Lectures will both complement and extend beyond the textbook (e.g., some of the theories, research methods, approaches to measurement, etc., will be discussed in greater depth than in the textbook). At the same time, not all material that is in the textbook will be covered in lectures. However, students will be responsible for studying all assigned textbook chapters. Throughout the course, video presentations and in-class discussions will be used to encourage critical thinking about the various theoretical approaches to personality. "Challenge questions" will be presented at various points during 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 explore issues related to personality theory, measurement, and contemporary areas of research. Also, a number of personality scales will be completed in class, and students will be involved in scoring and interpreting their responses. Reading textbook chapters before class as well as regular attendance will be essential to gain maximum benefit from this course. Course announcements, lecture slides (following the lectures), test scores, etc. will be posted on BlackBoard at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

Prerequisite

Psychology 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text

Crowne, D. P. (2009). *Personality Theory* (2nd Ed). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. 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 8, 2009, worth 30% of final grade; Term Test 2 on November 10, 2009, worth 30% of final grade; and Final Exam on date to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office worth 40% 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., analysis and the application of principles and concepts).

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-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Class Date	Course Topic	Text Reading
Sep 8	Introduction to Personality	Ch 1
Sep 10 - 15	Methods of Studying Personality	Ch 1
Sep 17 - Oct 6	Psychodynamic Approach	Ch 2 - 6
Oct 8	Term Test 1	
Oct 13 - 27	Dispositional Approach	Ch 9
Oct 29 – Nov 5	Phenomenological/Humanistic Approach	Ch 11
Nov 10	Term Test 2	
Nov 11 - 15	Reading Days. No Lectures	
Nov 17 - 19	Phenomenological/Humanistic Approach Cont'd	Ch 11
Nov 24 - Dec 3	Social Learning/Cognitive Approach	Ch 14 - 15
Dec 8	Contemporary Issues and Research	
	Future Directions	Ch 17
Dec 11 - 21	Final Examination Period (Exam to be scheduled by Registrar)	

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.

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 15 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 15 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 15 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 403-220-8237. 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 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Make-up tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

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 an individual'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 7th, 2009**.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8th, 2009**.