

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research
Psychology 2550A, section 530
Dr. John Mitchell
2018-19

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.

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John Mitchell
Office: BR 123
E-mail: jbmitche@uwo.ca
Telephone: Ext. 28116
Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00 – 4:00
Thursdays 9:00 – 10:00
and by appointment.
Class: Tuesday, 1:30 – 2:30, UH 250
Thursday, 12:30 – 2:30. UH 250

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 Oct. 3 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 Nov. 1 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 Dec. examination period as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The Final Exam will be based on Chapters 8, 9, 10, and the chapters we cover during the final 2 weeks of class, and the corresponding classes. The Final exam contributes 40% of your course grade.

Evaluation Summary	Test 1,	Oct. 3	30%
	Test 2,	Nov. 1	30%
	Final Exam,	Dec. 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 their intellectual ability. What I find even more concerning is that not only do those students have lower marks, the students sitting behind them who are 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>
Sept. 6	Opening Class: What is Personality	1
11, 13	The Study and Assessment of Personality	2
18, 20	Psychoanalytic Aspects	3
25, 27, 31	Neo-analytic and Ego Aspects	4
Oct. 2	Biological Aspects	5
4	Test 1	
9, 11	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>	
16	Biological Aspects	5
18, 23	Behaviorist and Learning Aspects	6
23, 25	Cognitive and Social-Cognitive Aspects	7
30	Traits	8
Nov. 1	Test 2	
6, 8	Traits	8
13, 15	Humanistic and Existential Aspects	9
20, 22	Person-Situation Interactions	10
27, 29	To be decided ¹	TBA
Dec. 4	To be decided	TBA
6	Last Class	-

¹ The classes from Nov 27 to the end of the course do not yet have topics assigned. What topics and chapter(s) we cover during those classes will be determined at the beginning of the course based on student interest. Once decided (by Sept. 18), an updated course outline will be posted to the course OWL site.

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.

Important Dates:

September 6	Classes begin
September 14	Fall Add/Drop ends
October 8 – 12	Fall Reading Week
November 12	Last date to drop a Fall term half course (an A or F course) without academic penalty
November 30	Last date to drop a full year course without academic penalty
December 7	Fall term classes end
December 8 & 9	Study days
December 10 – 21	December exam period.
January 7	Winter term classes start

2018-19 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.

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. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

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 . 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.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your 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 sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>). 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.*

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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20 .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

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.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the 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 Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

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/>.

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.