

## Psychology 2550A

# Introduction to Personality Theory and Research

## School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

### General Information

Course: 2550A

Section: 530

Term: Fall

Year: 2019-20

Course Day and Time: Mondays 2:30 – 4:30 and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30

Course Location: MSJ 303

### Instructor Information

Name: Dr. John Mitchell

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Tele: x 28116

Office hours: Monday 9:00 – 10:00, Thursday 10:00 – 11:00, and by appointment

Office location: MSJ 123

### Course 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.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Psychology 2050](#) if taken before 2016.

**Prerequisite(s):** A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level

### Required Course Materials

Larsen, R., Buss, D., King, D. B., & Ensley, C. (2017). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature (1st Canadian edition)*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

### Learning Outcomes

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

1. describe the different methods used to study personality and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each approach;

2. define personality, including the assumptions that underlie the study of human personality;
3. describe the main theoretical perspectives on personality;
4. describe the applications of different approaches to personality;
5. compare and contrast the main theories of personality, including how these theories inter-relate.

## Brescia Competencies

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

1. *Self Awareness and Development*; learning about the structure and function of personality contributes to our self knowledge (level 2).
2. *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 (level 2).
3. *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 (level 2).
4. *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 (level 2).

## Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

Lecture format with some in-class discussion. The lectures are intended to complement the textbook, not simply repeat what you have read. The intention is to draw your attention to the most important information and expand on it, and to explain the more challenging material. I will present some material that is not in the textbook and we will not discuss everything that is in the textbook. For the tests and final examination, you are responsible for lecture material and material from the assigned chapters, even if we do not cover that material in class. Hence class attendance will significantly increase how much you learn in this course and how well you do on the tests and final examination.

I will post abbreviated versions of the lecture slides on the course OWL site. Please note that these slides will contain some, but not all, of the information shown in class. The posted slides are intended to be used as an aid to note taking in class, not as a substitute for being in class.

**Technology in the Classroom:** 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, look at photos or browse various websites not related to the course, 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 significant negative correlation with test and exam marks (Ravizza, Hambrick, & Fenn, 2014). That

is, the more students use their devices in class on non-course tasks, the lower their marks on tests and exams, even when controlling for intellectual ability. Even more concerning, 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 and exams (Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013).

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

### Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

### Evaluation

**Test 1** is scheduled for Sept. 30 in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 1, 2, 9 (pages 201 – 215), and 10 and the corresponding classes. Test 1 contributes 30% of your course grade. Test 1 will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

**Test 2** is scheduled for Oct. 28 in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 11, 12, and 14 and the corresponding classes. Test 2 contributes 30% of your course grade. Test 2 will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

**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 3, 5, 6, and 7, and the corresponding classes. The Final exam contributes 40% of your course grade. The final examination will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

### Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Date	Learning Outcome	Brescia Competencies
Test 1	30%	Sept. 30	1-5	1-4
Test 2	30%	Oct. 28	1-5	1-4
Final Examination	40%	Final Exam Period	1-5	1-4

## Course Content

Class	Date	Description	Readings
1	Sept. 9	Introduction to Personality Psychology	1
2, 3	11, 16	Personality Assessment, Measurement and Research	2
4	18	Psychoanalytic Approaches to Personality	9 (p. 201 – 215)
5, 6	23, 25	Psychoanalytic Approaches: Contemporary Issues	10
7	30	<b>Test 1</b>	-
8, 9	Oct. 2, 7	Motives and Personality	11
10	9	Cognitive Topics in Personality	12
	14	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	-
11	16	Cognitive Topics in Personality	12
12, 13	21, 23	Approaches to the Self	14
14	28	<b>Test 2</b>	-
15	30	Traits and Trait Taxonomies	3
	Nov. 4, 6	<i>Reading Week</i>	
16, 17	6, 11	Traits and Trait Taxonomies	3
18, 19	13, 18	Personality Dispositions over Time	5
20, 21	20, 25	Genetics and Personality	6
22	27	Physiological Approaches to Personality	7
23	Dec. 2	Physiological Approaches to Personality	7
24	4	Last Class	

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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.

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## Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the following Academic Policies and Regulations section or consult the Academic Calendar.

# 2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12).

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An 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) ;
2. 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;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](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; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.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](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](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, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals 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](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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

### 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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### 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.

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