

Psychology 2550A (530)

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Dean and by the course instructor.

General Information

Course #: PSY2550A

Section #: 530

Term: Fall

Year: 2021

Delivery: In-person

Course Day, Time, and Location:

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm (BR-204)

Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm (BR-302)

Instructor Information

Name: Elizabeth Kelly

Email: ekelly6@uwo.ca

Telephone number: N/A

Office hours and location: TBA

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.

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.

Required Course Materials

- Textbook: Friedman, H. S., & Schustack, M. W. (2016). *Personality: Classic theories and modern research* (6th ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson.
 - Revel Access Card Electronic Version or Print Hardcopy
 - The Revel Access Card Electronic Version of the course textbook is recommended over the Print Hardcopy both because it is more economical and because it includes videos, quizzes, highlighting, and notetaking features that students can utilize to further enhance their independent learning when studying.
- Other course information and materials, such as announcements, lecture slides, participation assignments, and grades will be posted on OWL. Note that lecture slides are outlines only and cannot take the place of attending lectures.

Learning Outcomes and Brescia Competencies

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, and that knowledge will be demonstrated by applying course content knowledge to examples from your own experience (level 3).
- *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).
- *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).
- *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).
- *Communication*: Applications of course concepts to your own experiences and participation in class activities and exercises provide opportunities to practice communication skills (level 2).

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

Lectures and corresponding slides will be organized according to the framework provided by the course textbook. Note that not all the material in assigned textbook chapters will be discussed in lecture and some additional material not in the textbook will be included. Short exercises will be incorporated into class whenever possible to permit students opportunities to engage with concepts via interactive activities.

Students are expected to do textbook readings regularly, review lecture materials on schedule, complete participation assignments by due dates, and prepare well in advance of exams. The course involves a fair amount of reading on your own. It is best to read textbook sections before or during the corresponding lecture weeks.

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

Your grade in this course will be based on marks received for ten participation assignments and three exams.

Participation Assignments

Participation assignments are designed to offer students a variety of learning experiences. There will be ten short participation assignments due throughout the term. Each participation assignment builds on what is covered in the textbook for the corresponding week, usually by providing additional depth on a specific topic and requiring completion of an exercise. The purpose of participation assignments is to motivate students to actively engage with course content regularly.

More information about participation assignments including content, submission requirements, evaluation, and late penalties will be provided the first week of the course and outlined in a general instruction document posted on OWL.

Exams

The course will be divided into three sections and there will be an exam after each section. Exams are **not cumulative**. Midterm exams 1 and 2 have been tentatively scheduled during regularly scheduled class time. Final 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 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.

Requests for **academic accommodation** to write make-ups 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). **Make-up exams** may consist of multiple and/or different question types such as short answer and essay.

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation	Weight	Content	Date and Time
Participation Assignments	5% (10 X .5%)	Ch. 1-10	Due Tuesdays 11:30am in OWL
Midterm Exam 1	30%	Ch. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Oct. 5 (Tues.) - 11:30am-1:30pm
Midterm Exam 2	35%	Ch. 5, 6, 7, & 8	Nov. 16 (Tues.) - 11:30am-1:30pm
Final Exam 3	30%	Ch. 9, 10, & 12	TBA (Dec. 10-21)

* Note that there will be no re-taking of exams, re-weighting of course components, nor extra bonus work available for the purpose of improving grades.

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 30% or more of the total course grade (i.e., exams), please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar. Documentation must be submitted to one's Academic Advisor in order to receive approval to write a make-up exam. The instructor must be notified of any such case via email as soon as possible. Make-ups are usually scheduled within a week or two after the missed exam (usually on the Friday afternoon of the following week).

For course components worth 1% or less of the total course grade (i.e., participation assignments), academic accommodation will not normally be considered. Note that the evaluation of participation assignments is structured such that students can submit late work and/or not complete tasks occasionally and still do very well on this course component. See the participation assignment general instruction document posted on OWL for more information about late penalties for missed deadlines.

Course Content

The course structure follows the textbook chapter sequence. Topics will be covered in the order listed on the schedule. Any changes to the schedule will be announced ASAP on OWL. Note that there are a few chapters (ch. 11, 13, 14, & 15) which we will not be included in this course.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Participation
Sept. 9	Course overview and introduction	Ch. 1	
Sept. 14 & 16	Studying and measuring personality	Ch. 2	1
Sept. 21 & 23	Psychoanalytic aspects	Ch. 3	2
Sept. 28 & 30	Neo-analytic and ego aspects	Ch. 4	3
Oct. 5	Midterm Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, & 4)		
Oct. 12 & 14	Biological aspects	Ch. 5	4
Oct. 19 & 21	Behaviorist aspects	Ch. 6	5
Oct. 26 & 28	Cognitive and social-cognitive aspects	Ch. 7	6
Nov. 2 & 4	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>		
Nov. 9 & 11	Trait aspects	Ch. 8	7
Nov. 16	Midterm Exam 2 (Ch. 5, 6, 7, & 8)		
Nov. 23 & 25	Humanistic, existential, and positive aspects	Ch. 9	8
Nov. 30 & Dec 2	Person-situation interactionist aspects	Ch. 10	9
Dec. 7	Stress, adjustment, and health differences	Ch. 12	10
TBA	Final Exam 3 (Ch. 9, 10, & 12)		

2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at https://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 (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&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 ;
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](#) 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 (https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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, 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.

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 **Health & Wellness at Brescia** (https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, 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 https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

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.
