

Department of Psychology
Psychology 231 – Personality Psychology

2017 Winter Term

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Office Hrs: Tuesday 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	

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Class times: Monday 8:30 – 10:00a.m. & Thursday 10:00 – 11:30a.m.
Lecture Hall: Etherington Auditorium

Textbook: Miserandino, M., & Porter, S. (2016). *Personality psychology: Foundations and findings – Canadian edition*. Toronto: Pearson.

MOODLE: Some course materials may be accessed through the course onQ page.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is intended to introduce students to both the foundations (theory) and findings (research) of personality psychology. This course is evidence-based, focusing on what psychologists have discovered about human personality. The course will provide a broad overview of the various areas or perspectives of personality research including traits, genetics, neuroscience, self and identity, psychoanalytic, and cognitive/behavioural perspectives. This course will also introduce students to personality assessment and research methods. Most importantly, there will be a focus on cutting edge research and developments in the understanding of personality, such as the widely accepted "Big Five" approach and gender differences in personality. Upon completion of this course, students will have an understanding of "good" personality measurement, the major areas and theoretical perspectives of personality research, and (hopefully) ultimately be able to relate these findings to understanding their own, and others', personality and behaviour.

Course Evaluation:

Exam 1	February 9, 2017	30%
Exam 2	March 16, 2017	30%
Exam 3	Final Exam Period, 2017	40%

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity>

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Information on Exams:

The first two exams will be held during the regular class times. Exams are exclusive and you will only be examined on the material before the exam. Exams are not cumulative although information presented in the first part of the course forms the basis for understanding the material covered later in the course. The Faculty Office will schedule the Final Exam for the final examination period in April 2017.

Special needs students are invited to identify themselves by January 20 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for them to take the midterm tests.

Exams may include multiple choice, definition and short answer questions. Information on the exact number of questions and the weights assigned to them will be available in the class before the exam.

Lecture and Reading Schedule (Guideline Subject to Variation) Course Outline

<i>Week of ...</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading in Miserando & Porter</i>
January 8 (week 1)	Course Introduction	Chapter 1
January 15 (week 2)	Personality Traits	Chapters 2, 3
January 22 (week 3)	Personality Assessment	Chapter 4
January 29 (week 4)	Self and Identity	Chapter 5
February 5 (week 5)	Genetics and Evolutionary Theory Midterm on Thursday	Chapter 6
February 12 (week 6)	Genetics and Evolutionary Theory Psychoanalytic Perspectives	Chapter 8
February 19 (week 7)	Reading Week	
February 26 (week 8)	Psychoanalytic Perspectives Neuroscience of Personality	Chapter 7
March 5 (week 9)	Regulation and Motivation	Chapter 9
March 12 (week 10)	Cognitive Foundations Midterm on Thursday	Chapter 10
March 19 (week 11)	Gender and Personality	Chapter 11
March 26 (week 12)	Sexual Orientation	Chapter 12
April 2 (week 13)	Resilience	

PSYC Departmental Policies

Exam absence:

Students who cannot write an exam during the December or April exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family) must follow the steps below to be eligible to write a deferred exam during the PSYC department's *Make up Exam period* in January, April/May, and September.

1. Obtain permission from their instructor to write a deferred exam. This requires notifying your instructor in advance or, under extraordinary circumstances, within 72 hours after, the exam, with appropriate documentation [i]. Please use the [Request for Exam Deferral form](#) (PDF, 423 KB) and attach your documentation.
2. Complete and return the instructor-signed [Permission for an Incomplete Grade](#) (PDF, 177 KB) form available on the Arts and Science website and return to the UG office.
3. Be available to write the makeup exam the PSYC department's *Make up Exam period* in January, April/May or September or receive '0' on the exam.

NOTE: Students who do not write the makeup exam are advised to drop the course. If a student cannot write the makeup exam due to a serious extenuating circumstance for which they can provide new documentation, they will either be granted a second deferral by their instructor or be supported in their appeal to drop the course after the deadline though this decision rests with the Associate Dean (Studies).

Travel during exams:

According to university regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods as well as during any scheduled class times. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g. flight bookings) or requests to miss an in class exam due to other plans will NOT be considered except under extraordinary circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final exam schedules are posted before making any travel arrangements.

Accommodation after the fact:

Once a student has written an exam or submitted an assignment, they may not subsequently be granted accommodation such as being offered a second opportunity to write the exam or assignment or have it count for less than originally specified in the course syllabus (reweighted). Students who cannot perform to the best of their abilities due a serious, extenuating circumstance must inform their instructor before attempting an exam or completing a course to arrange appropriate accommodation. Appeals to change a grade after the fact must be made to the Associate Dean (Studies) and will only be supported by the department in exceptional circumstances.

[i] Appropriate documentation includes a signed letter from a registered health professional, Queens HC&DS, or documentation of a death such as a bulletin from a memorial service, obituary (newspaper or online) or funeral home letter. Official documents will be copied and originals returned to the student. Note that the PSYC department randomly checks document authenticity and that fraudulent documents will be grounds for a finding of a major departure from academic integrity.