

PSY230H5F – Introduction to Personality Science

Delivery Method: **IN-PERSON**

Schedule: **MO 11:00am – 1:00pm and WED 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

Room Location: **DV2074 (Davis Building)**

Contact Information

[Need help? Please check Quercus first!]
[post general questions on the discussion board]
[if information is not available, email your TA]
[email me to request individual appointments]

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[include PSY230 in subject line]

Office Hours: Wed 11am-12pm (in person) or
per appointment on zoom

Office Location: DH4014

Teaching Assistants

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Course Description

Personality science examines human diversity in behaviours, thoughts, and emotions. A primary learning objective is for students to think scientifically about human diversity in personality traits. The course focuses primarily on empirical results that have accumulated since the 1970s. Students learn about the measurement of personality, biological and social causes of human diversity, and the influence of personality on major life outcomes. The course focuses on variation in personality that is normal, although the relationship between personality and health – both physical and mental – is examined.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to;

- Understand scientific concepts in the study of personality
- Critically examine claims about personality.
- Describe individuals' personality using the Big Five dimensions
- Understand the contribution of nature and nurture to human diversity
- Know about key findings in personality science
- Gain insights into their own personality from a scientific perspective

Course Evaluation

To obtain a grade in this course, you have to be formally enrolled in this course. Please check your enrollment status for this course.

Grades are based on the following point system.

- 1. In-class participation!!! (5%)** Participation requires attendance in class and answering questions during lectures. Correct and incorrect responses count equally towards your participation mark. You need to have an 80% response rate or more to get the full 10% towards your final mark. Response rates of less than 80% receive participation marks in proportion to the response rate (e.g., 65% response rate = 6.5% towards the final grade). Response rates below 50% receive 0% for participation. IF YOUR PARTICIPATION MARK is lower than your performance on the exams, your participation mark will be automatically adjusted to your performance on the exams. A mark of 65% on the exams gives you 65% towards participation. A mark of 82% gives you 82% towards participation. Marks over 80% will NOT give you 100% participation. This means that you get rewarded for in-class participation.
- 2. Weekly participation. (10%)** The textbook has engagement questions. You are expected to read the textbook before class time and complete the engagement questions. Responses to these questions are worth 10% of your final mark.
- 3. Weekly learning assessment (10%).** I will post multiple-choice questions about assigned chapters of the textbook. Answers will be scored based on attempts (0.5) and correctness (1.0), total (1.5 points per question). The average will count 10% towards your final mark.
- 4. There will be one, two-page essay. (15%)** Three essay questions will be posted. You have one week to pick one essay topic and to submit your essay.
- 5. There will be one midterm, consisting of 40 multiple choice questions. (30%)** The midterm will be online during class-time and can be taken in class or at home. It is worth 30% of your final mark. The mid-term will take 2 hours. The mid-term will be **OPEN BOOK**.
- 6. The final during exams period consists of 40 multiple choice questions and is worth 30%. The final will be OPEN BOOK. It is not clear yet whether it will take place in person or online.**

Final Mark = 5% In-Class Participation + 10% Online Participation + 10% Quizzes, 15% Essay, 30% Midterm + 30% Final

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the [help site](#).

Student Tech Requirements and Connection Tools

- [Recommended tech requirements for online learning](#)
- [UTM Library Learn Anywhere resource website](#)

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at:

<https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Important note: If you sit down and receive a test, you will **NOT** be able to receive special consideration.

If your request is approved by the department, redistribution will apply (describe redistribution i.e. 'the weight of the missed test will be redistributed to the final exam')

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar and follow their procedures.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including weekends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you **WILL BE REMOVED** from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer

Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Important Dates

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/important-dates>

September 12: First meeting of class

September 21: Last day to add or change classes.

October 10: No class (Thanksgiving)

October 12: No class (Reading week)

October 31: Midterm

November 14: Deadline for Term Paper

November 16 Last Day to Drop Course without Academic Penalty

December 7: Last Meeting of Class

Course Outline

September 12 & 14

L01: Introduction

Reading: Author, Chapter 1 (Due September 11, 12am)

"Does my personality fit this course?"

- Course Outline
- What is personality psychology?

September 19 & 21

L02: Scientific Methods I

Reading: Chapter 2 (Due September 19, 12am)

"How can scientists study my personality?"

- Correlation coefficient
- Causality

September 26 & 28

L03: Description/Taxonomy

Reading: Chapter 3 (Due September 26, 12am)

"How can scientists describe my personality?"

- How do we describe human diversity?
- How did we end up with the Big Five?
- Hierarchical models of personality.

October 3 & 5

L04: Measurement

Reading: Chapter 4 (Due October 3, 12am)

"How can scientists measure my personality?"

- How well do you know yourself and others?
- Self-reports, Informant Reports
- Everyday Cues of Personality
- Observation of Behaviors / Self-Observations

October 10 Fall Reading Week!!!! NO CLASSES !!!!

October 17 & 19

Reading: Chapter 5 (Due October 17, 12am)

L05: Stability

- *"What will my personality be like 20 years from now?"*
- Rank-order Stability/Absolute Stability
- Personality Development/Change
- Personality Disorders

October 24 & 26

Reading: Chapter 6 (Due October 24, 12am)

L06: Personality and Situations I

- *"What makes me behave the way I do?"*
- Attributions: Lay Explanations of Behavior
- Was it personality or the situation?
- Cross-situational consistency
- *"Do I have different personalities in different situations?"*
- Person x Situation Interaction

October 31 MIDTERM

November 2: Open Discussion

November 7 & 9

Reading: Chapter 7 (Due November 7, 12am)

L7: Personality and Evolution

- *Was my personality determined 40,000 years ago?*
- Sex differences in sexuality
- Other sex differences

November 14 & 16

Reading: Chapter 8 (Due November 14, 12am)

L8: Personality and Genetics I

- *Was my personality determined at the moment of my conception?*
- Basic principles of behavioural genetics
- Basic findings in behavioural genetics research
- Molecular genetics and personality

November 21 & 23

Reading: Chapter's 9 & 10 (Due November 21, 12am)

L9: Personality in the Brain and Body

- *How is my personality influenced by my brain and body?*
- Hormones
- Brain and personality

L10: Personality and Culture

- *How is my personality influenced by the culture I grew up in?*
- Cross-cultural differences in personality
- Historic cultural changes and personality
- *"What do I want?"*

November 28 & 30

Reading: Chapter's 11 & 12 (Due November 28, 12am)

L11. Personality and Values

- Human needs, motives, and values
- Cultural influences on motivation

L12. Unconscious Personality Processes

December 5 & 7

Reading: Chapter's 13 & 14 (Due December 5, 5pm)

L13. Personality and Emotions

- Positive and Negative Emotions

L14. Personality and Life-Outcomes

- Well-Being
- Work
- Relationships