

Personality Psychology (Psychology 305A)
Section 002
Winter 2013, Term 1 (Fall)

Class Times

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:00-2:50 pm
Location: BUCH a 201 (Buchanan a201)

Office Hours

Instructor: Professor Jessica Tracy (jltracy@psych.ubc.ca)
Phone: 604-822-2718
Room 3515 Kenny (psychology) Building
Come see me right after class Wednesdays, or email for an appointment

Teaching assistants

Conor Steckler, conor.steckler@psych.ubc.ca
Simon Ho, simon@psych.ubc.ca

TA Office Hours:

Conor: Mondays 11-12, Kenny 1101
Simon: Mondays 3-4, Kenny 3508
Or, email either for an appointment.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of personality. Personality refers to consistencies in people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior over time and across situations. Topics will include methods of personality research and an overview of the primary theoretical perspectives and major research findings in the field. The course will consist of three classes per week, which will include lectures, full-length films and film segments, exams, and class discussions in which student participation is encouraged.

Required Reading

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2009). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (4th Edition). New York: McGraw Hill. [NOTE: THE FIFTH OR 3RD EDITIONS ARE FINE TOO; JUST MAKE SURE THE CHAPTERS COVER THE SAME CONTENT]

Films

We will be viewing two full-length films during the term, as well as shorter video clips. These films are part of the course content; we will discuss them in class, and material covered in the film and class discussions will be included on exams. If you miss a film, it is your responsibility to see it or learn about its major themes. Please note that certain films may be difficult to find.

Course Requirements and Grading

Exams: In lieu of major midterms or final exams, this course will have shorter (approx. 45 min.) exams on an approximately bi-weekly basis. Thus, there will be a total of 6 exams, each of which will be primarily focused on the topics covered in the 2 or 3-week section of the course immediately preceding the exam. However, these exams will also be somewhat cumulative in that they will call for knowledge acquired across the course thus far (that's just how psychology, and all sciences, works; you need to have knowledge of certain topics in order to write or learn thoughtfully about other topics). The major emphasis of each exam, however, will be on material covered in the preceding 2-3 weeks. Exam questions (multiple choice and short essay) will be based on material from the lectures, readings, and in-class films, with greatest emphasis on the lectures.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. If you have a medical emergency (doctor's note required), I will waive the exam you need to miss, and your final grade will be based on the mean of the other exams. If you know now that you will need to miss more than one exam, you should try to get into a different section of this course or sign up next year instead. You may **NOT** choose to waive an exam; **exam waivers will be permitted ONLY for students who have a documented medical emergency.**

Grading: The 6 exams will each be worth 16.67% of your total grade (100% total).

You also may receive up to **3 extra credit points** (for a total of 103 points) for participating in the Department of Psychology's subject pool. You will receive 1 extra credit point for every hour you participate in an experiment. To receive credit for experiment participation, you will need to sign up and receive credit through the Dept. subject pool website: <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>.

Please note that final grades may be scaled, according to department policy.

Web Resources: Slides from each lecture (and this syllabus) will be posted on the web after each class; you should download these files and use them as study guides. The course website can be found at <http://ubc-emotionlab.ca/psyc305a-personality/>. You will need to enter the password "personality" to access the site.

It is important to note that the slides posted on the web will not cover everything that is covered in class. If you miss class, you should download the slides **and** ask a classmate for additional notes. I will NOT respond to emails asking about the contents of lectures that were missed. If you email to find out what you missed in class, you will receive a reply along the lines of: "see lecture notes". If you don't know anyone in the class to get notes from, now is a good time to meet someone!

Email Policy: In general, I will provide only 1-sentence responses via email. If you have a question that cannot be answered in a single sentence or less, please see me before or after either class, or make an appointment to come to my office and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Except in special circumstances, emails requiring responses longer than 1-sentence will NOT be answered. For all email responses, please permit more than 24 hours before expecting a

response (e.g., you are unlikely to receive a response the night before an exam). Emails will generally not be answered over the weekend.

Course Calendar

Week 1

- Wed., Sept 4th Review of syllabus
- Fri., Sept. 6th Overview of Personality
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 1

Week 2

- Mon., Sept. 9th Research Methods in Personality
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 2
- Wed., Sept. 11th Wrap up Research Methods, Begin Psychoanalytic Approach
(Freud)
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 9
- Fri., Sept. 13th Freud Part II

Week 3

- Mon., Sept. 16th EXAM 1
- Wed., Sept. 18th **NO CLASS:** Observance of Opening of West Coast National
Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Fri., Sept 20th Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 10

Week 4

- Mon., Sept. 23rd Wrap up Narcissism; Begin Motives and the Phenomenological/
Humanistic Approach
Larsen & Buss, Chapter 11
- Wed., Sept. 25th Wrap up Motives; Begin the Self
- Fri., Sept. 27th FILM: *The Social Network* Part I

Week 5

- Mon., Sept. 30th FILM: *The Social Network* Part II
- Wed., Oct. 2nd Discuss Film; Self and Self-Esteem
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 14
- Fri., Oct. 4th EXAM 2

Week 6

Mon., Oct. 7 th	Begin Traits and Trait Taxonomies Larsen & Buss: Chapter 3
Wed., Oct 9 th	Theoretical and Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology Larsen & Buss: Chapter 4
Fri. Oct. 11 th	Personality Traits: Change and Stability; Wrap up Traits Larsen & Buss: Chapter 5

Week 7

Mon. Oct. 14 th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; NO CLASS
Wed. Oct. 16 th	Begin Genetic Approach Larsen & Buss: Chapter 6
Fri., Oct 18 th	EXAM 3

Week 8

Mon., Oct. 21 st	Genetics
Wed. Oct. 23 rd	Physiological Approach Larsen & Buss, Chapter 7
Fri., Oct. 25 th	Evolutionary Approach Larsen and Buss: Chapter 8

Week 9

Mon., Oct. 28 th	FILM: Body Doubles: The Twin Experience
Wed., Oct. 30 th	Discuss Body Doubles Wrap up Biological Approach
Fri., Nov. 1 st	EXAM 4

Week 10

Mon., Nov. 4 th	Learning and Behaviorism
Wed. Nov. 6 th	Modern Cognitive Approach Larsen & Buss, Chapter 12
Fri., Nov. 8 th	Wrap up Cognitive Approach; Begin Emotions

Week 11

Mon., Nov. 11 th	NO CLASS: REMEMBRANCE DAY
Wed. Nov. 13 th	Emotions and Personality Larsen & Buss: Chapter 13
Fri. Nov. 15 th	EXAM 5

Week 12

Mon., Nov. 18 th	Personality and Relationships Larsen and Buss: Chapter 15
Wed., Nov. 20 th	Sex and Gender Larsen & Buss: Chapter 16
Fri. Nov. 22 nd	Gender Part 2: Gender Roles; Begin Culture

Week 13

Mon., Nov. 25 th	Culture and Personality Larsen & Buss: Chapter 17
Wed., Nov. 27 th	Overview and Wrap up Larsen & Buss: Chapter 20
Fri., Nov. 29 th	EXAM 6

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult with your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).