

**PSY 2360: Introduction to Individual Differences and Personality
Winter 2018**

Instructor

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Course Meeting Time and Location

Tue/Thurs 5:30 PM - 7:17 PM, 105 Wilson Hall (WH)

Course Description

This course provides a review of empirical and theoretical work in the broad field of personality psychology. This course is meant to be an introduction understanding research on broad individual differences in traits, behaviours, cognitions, dispositions, and temperaments between humans.

Course Prerequisites: 1.0 or better in PSY1000

Required Text:

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2017). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human knowledge* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

ISBN-13: 9781259870491

ISBN: 1259870499

Course Procedures: *Discussions, lectures, videos*

Cross-Cutting Capacities: Effective communication, critical thinking, practical understanding of approaches and perspectives to understanding individual differences, specific knowledge of some of the sources of individual differences in humans.

Course Objectives (derived from American Psychological Association guidelines):

1. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behaviour and mental processes.
2. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
3. Value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of formats.
5. Develop an approach to recognizing, studying, and evaluating individual differences in human behaviour, cognitions, and psychology.

Expectations

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct will be expected; violations of this code will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>. In addition, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. The instructor reserves the right to limit this course's survey of alternative perspectives to those that meet generally accepted standards of plausibility in the field of scholarship covered in this course, as judged by the instructor's professional opinion. Students are expected to show mastery of these perspectives in their spoken and written contributions.

Behaviour and Courtesy

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.

Multi-tasking, such as taking notes and texting, decreases your performance on both tasks. Note taking using electronic devices such as laptops diminishes your ability to absorb and retain information. It also introduces temptation and

distractions. Research demonstrates that hand-writing is the most effective note taking strategy. If you do decide to use electronic devices anyway, it is asked that you please be courteous of your fellow students and sit in the back of the classroom so as to minimize the distractions to those around you. Disruptive classroom behaviour will be addressed by 1) a general announcement; 2) direct announcement; 3) a request to leave the classroom; 4) calling the Campus Police to have the student removed from the classroom.

Add/Drops & Incompletes: The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.

Make-up Examinations: If a student misses an exam for whatever reason, it may be made up on day of the final exam. Efforts should be made to take all exams at their scheduled time since missed exams will have to be taken in addition to the final exams in the time allotted for the final exam. If an exam needs to be made up, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor 1-2 weeks before the final exam to ensure that a copy can be printed. If a student is unable to attend the final exam, documentation (e.g., doctor's note) must be provided to verify extenuating circumstances that would necessitate rescheduling. Students arriving late to an exam will be permitted to sit for the exam until the first student has finished, after which point the exam will need to be made up.

Attendance and Participation:

Although there is no formal attendance policy, your attendance and participation is expected. You will not be formally penalized, but repeated absences will likely adversely impact your performance on exams. In addition, participation in class activities and lectures is not only beneficial for the classroom environment, but enhances learning opportunities. Therefore, up to 3% bonus may be awarded to the final grade based on each student's participation throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion. However, you must be present to participate in class. Students will still be responsible for all material covered, even if they are not present for a particular class period. Therefore, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you take time to become acquainted with classmates so that you may have access to notes should you need to miss class. It is each student's responsibility to find access to missed notes on their own. Inquiries to the instructor regarding missed material will likely not receive a favorable reply. Finally, class begins promptly at the listed start time, and punctuality is important. If you must arrive late, please enter the class quietly. If you are disruptive, you will be asked to leave.

Special Considerations: A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the **Office of Disability Support Services**, 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

Policy on Academic Misconduct: The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

Excused Absence Policy: University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the OU excused absence policy, see <http://www.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

Faculty Feedback: As a student in this class, you may receive "Faculty Feedback" in your OU e-mail if your professor identifies areas of concern that may impede your success in the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2-5 of the Fall and Winter terms, but may also be given later in the semester and more than once a semester. A "Faculty Feedback" e-mail will specify the area(s) of concern and recommend action(s) you should take. Please remember to check your OU email account regularly as that is where it will appear.

Audio Recording Policy: Audio-recordings of lectures may be made only with permission from the instructor and only in extenuating circumstances. Requests must be accompanied with proper documentation (e.g., DSS note) of need for audio recordings. Recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the instructor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices. Students who fail to delete recordings without proper permission to retain will be asked to

delete them, after which proper channels (including legal) will be followed to ensure improperly handled audio-recordings are deleted.

Veteran Support Services: The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010.

<http://www.oakland.edu/veterans/>

Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns: The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns

at <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>

Grade Determination

Exams

There will be four exams throughout the semester based on previously covered course material. The fourth exam will be administered on the scheduled final exam date. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Grades will be assigned on the degree to which the answers reflect a complete and accurate response to the question. Each exam is worth 100 points out of the total 400 points in the course.

Grade Calculation: Your final grade will be calculated as the number of points you achieved across the four exams out of the total available 400 points. Extra credit assignments may be assigned at the instructor's discretion. The number of points achieved at the end of the semester out of 400 will be converted to a percentage. Grades will then be assigned according to the following scale:

Grading Scale:

95% and above = 4.0

90% - 94% = 3.6 - 3.9

80% - 89% = 3.0 - 3.5

70% - 79% = 2.0 - 2.9

60% - 69% = 1.0 - 1.9

59% and below = 0.0

In addition, up to 3% bonus may be assigned to a student's final grade based on participation in class discussion throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion.

Detailed Class Schedule and Topical Outline...tentatively

All dates and topics are subject to change. The instructor will inform students of any changes both in-class and electronically.

Date	Topic	Reading
4 Jan	Introduction to course	None
9 Jan	Introduction to Personality Psychology	ch. 1
11 Jan	Introduction to Personality Psychology/Personality Assessment	ch. 1/2
16 Jan	Personality Assessment, Measurement, & Research Design	ch. 2
18 Jan	Traits and Trait Taxonomies	ch. 3
23 Jan	Theoretical and Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology	ch. 4

25 Jan	Personality Dispositions over Time: Stability, Coherence, and Change	ch. 5
30 Jan	Exam I/Genetics and Personality	ch. 6
1 Feb	Genetics and Personality	ch. 6
6 Feb	Physiological Approaches to Personality	ch. 7
8 Feb	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality	ch. 8
13 Feb	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality	ch. 8
15 Feb	Exam II	
20-22 Feb	Winter Recess	
27 Feb	Psychoanalytic Approaches	ch. 9
1 Mar	Psychoanalytic Approaches: Contemporary Perspectives	ch. 9/10
6 Mar	Motives and Personality	ch. 11
8 Mar	Cognitive Topics in Personality	ch. 12
13 Mar	Emotion and Personality	ch. 13
15 Mar	Approaches to the Self	ch. 14
20 Mar	Exam III/Personality and Social Interaction	ch. 15
22 Mar	Personality and Social Interaction/Sex, Gender, and Personality	ch. 15/16
27 Mar	Sex, Gender, and Personality	ch. 16
29 Mar	Culture and Personality	ch. 17
3 Apr	Stress, Coping, Adjustment, and Health	ch. 18
5 Apr	Disorders of Personality	ch. 19
10 Apr	Summary and Future Directions	ch. 20
12 Apr	Review day	
17 Apr	No class	
19 Apr	Final Exam 7:00 – 10:00 PM	

Students are responsible for knowing all important dates throughout the semester, including the date and time of the final exam. Always check the registrar's calendar for official dates:

<https://oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/>