

Personality Psychology (Psychology 305A)

Section 004

Winter 2014/2015, Term 2 (Winter-Spring)

Class Times

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:00-2:50 pm
Location: Swing 121

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

Patrick Dubois, patrick.dubois@psych.ubc.ca
Daniel Sude, dsude@psych.ubc.ca

TA Office Hours:

Patrick: Mondays 1-2 pm, Kenny 3522
Daniel: Tuesdays 11am-12pm, Kenny 1111
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. (2010). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (4th Edition). New York: McGraw Hill. [NOTE: THE FIFTH EDITION IS FINE TOO.]

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.

In-class Laptop Policy

For the first time this year, I'm requesting that you do NOT use laptop computers in class. For the reasoning behind this policy, see http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/?tid=pm_local_pop.

If you have concerns with this policy, feel free to come talk to me about it. If there are reasons to make exceptions, I'm happy to do that.

Course Calendar

Week 1

Mon., Jan. 5th	Review of syllabus
Wed., Jan. 7 th	Overview of Personality Larsen & Buss: Chapter 1
Fri., Jan. 9 th	Research Methods in Personality Larsen & Buss: Chapter 2

Week 2

Mon., Jan. 12 th	Wrap up Research Methods, Begin Psychoanalytic Approach (Freud) Larsen & Buss: Chapter 9
Wed., Jan. 14 th	Freud Part II
Fri., Jan. 16 th	EXAM 1

Week 3

Mon., Jan. 19 th	Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives Larsen & Buss: Chapter 10
Wed., Jan. 21 st	Wrap up Narcissism; Begin Motives and the Phenomenological/ Humanistic Approach Larsen & Buss, Chapter 11
Fri., Jan. 23 rd	Wrap up Motives; Begin the Self

Week 4

Mon., Jan. 26 th	Self and Self-Esteem Larsen & Buss: Chapter 14
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Wed., Jan. 28th Begin Traits and Trait Taxonomies
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 3

Fri. Jan. 30th EXAM 2

Week 5

Mon., Feb. 2 Theoretical and Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 4

Wed., Feb. 4th Personality Traits: Change and Stability; Wrap up Traits
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 5

Fri. Feb. 6th Begin Genetic Approach

Week 6

Mon., Feb. 9th **BC FAMILY DAY; NO CLASS**

Wed., Feb. 11th Genetics
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 6

Fri., Feb. 13th Physiological Approach
Larsen & Buss, Chapter 7

Week 7 MID-WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK; NO CLASSES

Week 8

Mon., Feb. 23rd EXAM 3

Wed. Feb. 25th Evolutionary Approach
Larsen and Buss: Chapter 8

Fri., Feb. 27th FILM: *Body Doubles: The Twin Experience*

Week 9

Mon., Mar. 2nd Discuss *Body Doubles*
Wrap up Biological Approach

Wed., Mar. 4th Learning and Behaviorism

Fri., Mar. 6th Modern Cognitive Approach
Larsen & Buss, Chapter 12

Week 10

Mon., Mar. 9th Wrap up Cognitive approach; begin emotions

Wed. Mar. 11th EXAM 4

Fri., Mar. 13th FILM: *Shattered Glass* (part 1)

Week 11

Mon., Mar. 16th FILM: *Shattered Glass* (part 2)
Reading downloadable PDF from course website (NOTE—be sure to read this AFTER you watch the film, not before!)

Wed., Mar. 18th Discuss *Shattered Glass* and reading
Emotions and Personality
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 13

Fri., Mar 20th Wrap up Emotions
Personality and Social Relationships
Larsen and Buss: Chapter 15

Week 12

Mon., Mar. 23rd Sex and Gender
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 16

Wed., Mar. 25th Gender Part 2: Gender Roles

Fri., Mar. 27th EXAM 5

Week 13

Mon., Mar. 30th Culture and Personality
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 17

Wed., Apr. 1st Culture Wrap Up

Fri., Apr. 3rd **EASTER HOLIDAY; NO CLASS**

Week 14

Mon., Apr. 6th **EASTER HOLIDAY; NO CLASS**

Wed., Apr. 8th Overview and Course Wrap up
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 20

Fri., Apr. 10th 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>).