

Psychology 305A: Personality Psychology
Winter Term 2
Section 003: Tuesday/Thursdays, 11-12:30pm, Buchanan A101

Professor: Dr. Jason Martens

Email: martensj@psych.ubc.ca

Office hours: By appointment, but best to chat before or after class

Teaching Assistants: Zak Witkower, zakwitkower@gmail.com; Jessica Flores, jessica.p.flores@alumni.ubc.ca

Contact your TAs for course related questions. Only contact Dr. Martens if you first contact them and they were unable to address your question.

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.

Textbook

Required: Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2013). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature*. (5th edition).

- You can purchase the textbook in hardcover, loose-leaf, or any other version you prefer. The textbook will be available from the UBC bookstore. You can also purchase the 3rd or 4th editions instead of the 5th edition.

Students should plan on reading the assigned chapter before coming to class. Taking notes during class is essential to succeed in the course. Lectures will cover key topics from the readings, but additional information not included in the textbooks will also be included.

If you miss a class, contact a classmate to get their notes. I won't be able to go over with you what you missed, so this is a good time to exchange emails/phone numbers with your neighbours!

Evaluation

Exams: Students will complete two non-cumulative midterms worth 25% and 30%, which will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Exams will include material from assigned readings and class lecture. The final will be worth 40% and scheduled during final exam period (**April 12-27**). It will be cumulative and in a similar format as the midterms.

Midterm 1, 25%

Midterm 2, 30%

Scheduled by registrar: Final exam, 40%

Will include all material from the course

Miss a midterm exam? If you foresee missing a midterm exam, let your instructor know ahead of time. If you miss a midterm exam and have a valid reason (e.g., medical issue), your instructor will omit the exam and your other exams will be worth proportionately more, but only with proof (e.g., a doctor's note). Your instructor will only omit a maximum of 1 midterm exam per term. If you think you might miss more than 1 midterm exam for a valid reason, you should consider taking the course at another time. If you miss a midterm exam for an unsatisfactory reason (e.g., slept in, went on vacation, had a job interview, etc.) you will get a zero on the exam. Missed midterm exams will not be rescheduled. You *must* complete the final exam.

Presentation: Students will be assigned to a group of approximately 8 people. They will meet with this group during two classes. The goal is to select a celebrity or prominent figure (e.g., leader, politician) and assess his/her personality using

the big 5 (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism). Give the individual a numerical score for each area, and use evidence to justify the score. For example, if you selected Britney Spears, you could give her a score of 5 for extraversion and cite some of the numerous examples of her being outgoing (e.g., going to parties). Select an individual with a lot of information about them available online to make your task easier. More details about the presentation will be provided closer to the date.

The presentation will be worth **5%** of your final grade. Presentations will happen on the last two classes. You will also have to hand in a paper copy of your presentation. At least one person has to present for your group, but you can have one, some, or all members present; the decision is yours.

Bonus marks: Students can take part in research for an additional 3%. Participate in studies that are posted on <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/>. If you plan on participating, please register in this online system as soon as you can. You can also earn credit by completing pretesting survey that will make you eligible for a wider variety of studies. All of your credits for study participation will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling that may have been applied. As an alternative to participation in psychology subject pool experiments, you may complete a library-writing project. More information is provided here: <http://psych.ubc.ca/internal/human-subject-pool/>

There might be other instances to acquire bonus marks, but this decision will be made by your instructor as the course progresses. Any additional options will be discussed in class.

Tentative Class Schedule *subject to change at professor's discretion

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
1	Tuesday, January 5	Overview & Introduction	Chapter 1
	Thursday, January 7	Methodology	Chapter 2
2	Tuesday, January 12	Psychoanalytic	Chapters 9 & 10
	Thursday, January 14	Psychoanalytic	Chapters 9 & 10
3	Tuesday, January 19	Motives	Chapter 11
	Thursday, January 21	Motives & Self	Chapter 11 & 14
4	Tuesday, January 26	Traits	Chapters 3 & 4
	Thursday, January 28	Traits	Chapters 3 & 4
5	Tuesday, February 2	Midterm 1	
	Thursday, February 4	Traits	Chapter 5
6	Tuesday, February 9	Biological	Chapters 6 & 7
	Thursday, February 11	Biological	Chapters 6 & 7
7	Tuesday, February 16	NO CLASS (reading break)	
	Thursday, February 18	NO CLASS (reading break)	
8	Tuesday, February 23	Evolutionary	Chapter 8
	Thursday, February 25	Evolutionary	Chapter 8
9	Tuesday, March 1	Cognitive	Chapters 12 & 13
	Thursday, March 3	Cognitive	Chapters 12 & 13
10	Tuesday, March 8	Midterm 2	
	Thursday, March 10	Emotions	Chapter 13
11	Tuesday, March 15	Social interaction/Gender	Chapters 15 & 16
	Thursday, March 17	Social interaction/Gender	Chapters 15 & 16
12	Tuesday, March 22	Culture	Chapters 17 & 20
	Thursday, March 24	Culture	Chapters 17 & 20
13	Tuesday, March 29	Group work	
	Thursday, March 31	Group work	

14	Tuesday, April 5	Presentations 1	
	Thursday, April 7	Presentations 2	
FINAL	April 12-27	Final Exam	Cumulative, but focus on latest

Important dates:

- Last day to drop without "W", January 18
- Last day to withdraw with "W", February 12
- Final exam period, April 12-27

Departmental Policy on Distributions of Grades in all Psychology Classes

All psychology courses are required to meet the grade distributions as described below. This is done in order to “maintain equality among sections and conformity to University, Faculty, and Department norms”. Thus scaling of grades may take place. If the grades are scaled, any extra credits that are earned through study participation will be added to your grades after the scaling. Because of the potential need for scaling, “students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department, or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.”

Psyc 300 and 400-level courses

Class Performance	Mean	Standard Deviation
Good class	70	13
Average class	68	13
Weak class	66	13

Academic Dishonesty: Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students’ section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation. The Department of Psychology is currently implementing software designed to detect cheating on multiple choice exams. This software will be used to analyze the response patterns of all students taking these exams, and suspicious parties will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics,

family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.