



Psychology 2550A, Section 550
Introduction to Personality Theory and Research
Fall 2021

(Course weight = 0.5 credits)

1. Course Information

Instructor: Anita Feher

Contact Information: afeher2@uwo.ca

Class Location*: In-person class location: Huron University College,
Room V207 (HC-V207)
Online class components: OWL website

*If in-person classes are cancelled due to COVID-19, classes will move online and be hosted via Zoom

Class Times: Wednesdays 6:30 pm – 9:30pm EDT

Office Location: V209

Office Hours: After class or by appointment. (Note: office hours can be scheduled in-person or via Zoom)

Prerequisites: A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level.

Antirequisites: Psychology 2050 if taken before 2016.

2. Course Description

This course covers the history, methodology, and content of the study of personality and individual differences. Topics that will be covered in the course include an introduction to personality theories, an examination of frequently studied personality and individual difference variables, and a consideration of current research and assessment methods.

WEEKLY LECTURES:

The course format will consist of in-person lectures for people who can attend. For people who are unable to attend, I will be creating lecture videos after class every week covering the important course content covered in that week's lecture. These lecture videos will be uploaded on OWL by the end of that week latest. Please note that while these lecture videos will cover all testable content, they may not always contain extra lecture content (e.g., classroom discussions). There are no labs or tutorials for this course.

Note: If in-person classes are cancelled due to COVID-19, then weekly lectures will be hosted using Zoom (a video conferencing service supported by Western University). If that happens, then the Zoom lectures will be recorded and posted every week on OWL instead of separate lecture videos being recorded.

OWL COURSE SITE:

Course outlines, lecture PowerPoint slides, lecture videos, other classroom materials, lecture information, and grades will all be posted on the course website OWL. I will also be regularly posting announcements on OWL, so please be sure to check OWL regularly for announcements or changes to the lecture schedule. If you have trouble accessing OWL, please send me an e-mail.

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an office hour, feel free to send me an email. Please put "2550 EMAIL" as the subject line for all emails.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you require any accommodations, please make the appropriate arrangements with your Academic Counsellor and/or contact me as soon as possible and before any deadlines. Please also refer to Huron's Policies regarding Academic Considerations and receiving Accommodations.

COPYRIGHT:

Please note that all classroom material including, but not limited to, lectures, lecture videos, PowerPoint slides, readings, and all evaluations are subject to copyright. It is forbidden to record lectures, share classroom material with individuals outside of the course, share classroom material in any public domain, upload classroom material online, sell classroom material to any student or other third party, or distribute classroom material in any manner without the explicit permission of the course instructor.

3. Course Learning Outcomes

Throughout the course, students will develop knowledge, understanding, and the ability to critically evaluate personality-relevant material:

- ✓ **PERSONALITY THEORIES:** By the end of this course students will be able to discuss, compare, and critically examine major personality theories and how they were developed, and also how they are relevant to modern society and social concerns.
- ✓ **PERSONALITY TRAITS:** By the end of this course students will understand and be able to compare and contrast commonly assessed personality traits and individual difference

variables, and will also be able to discuss intrapersonal and interpersonal outcomes associated with these variables.

- ✓ **PERSONALITY RESEARCH:** By the end of the course students will have a comprehensive understanding of how personality research in psychology is conducted, and be able to compare various personality assessment methods and personality-relevant research designs.
- ✓ **REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS:** By the end of this course students will be able to understand how classroom material applies to real world outcomes and how classroom material connects to life experiences.

4. Textbooks and Course Materials

Title: Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature

Authors: Randy J. Larsen, David M. Buss, David King, Carolyn Ensley

Edition: 2nd Canadian Edition (this edition is required)

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=550_HC/PSY2550A

Note: the weekly reading schedule for this course will be posted on OWL

5. Methods of Evaluation

Midterm Exam: 35% (Due: October 20, 2021 at 11:55pm)

Final Exam: 35% (Due: Final Exam Period)

Research Proposal: 20% (Due: November 30, 2021 at 11:55pm)

Discussions: 10% (Due: Throughout the course)

Students at Huron University College should consider a grade in the range from 70-74 to be evidence of satisfactory performance in a 2100-level Psychology course. Grades in the B+ (75-79) or A (80-89%) ranges will only be awarded for performance that is demonstrably superior to the second-year standard associated with the Major or Minor modules. A grade of A+ (90-100%) will only be awarded very rarely and only for work that is truly exceptional.

Midterm Exam & Final Exam (Total Worth: 70%)

Both the Midterm and Final Exam (each worth 35%) will be take-home format, open-book exams (i.e., asynchronous) containing short-answer and long-answer questions. Exam questions will ask you to write responses that describe, apply, compare and contrast, or evaluate classroom material (including lecture content and readings).

Each exam will cover the lecture units leading up to that exam session. The exams are designed to be non-cumulative. However, due to the nature of the field of psychology, there may be overlap in concepts, ideas, and continuity of theory. Please note that take-home format exams are not considered traditional exams.

Exams will be open-book, so you will have access to all your readings, lecture content, and notes. You cannot use non-course material to answer exam questions. It is important that you work on this exam alone, and that you write all of your answers completely using your own words (you will be asked to submit the exam through Turnitin). Graded exams will not be returned to the students, although the scoring for a given exam can be checked with the instructor.

The Midterm Exam and Final Exam are designed to be completed in 3 hours or less, however I have provided an almost 24-hour window for students to complete the exams (to accommodate any time zone differences, work-life conflicts, or any other issues). The window of time to write the Midterm Exam will be from 12:00am to 11:55pm EDT, and please check the Exam Schedule/Class Announcements for the date and time of the Final Exam.

If you miss an exam due to medical or compassionate reasons, please follow the appropriate accommodation procedures. Students who receive approval to write a makeup exam may reach out to the instructor to schedule a makeup exam time.

Research Proposal (Total Worth: 20%)

The brief research proposal (four pages double-spaced in length) will give students the opportunity to apply what was learned in class and develop their own ideas for a research study in the area of Personality Psychology. This is a useful exercise that will help students to start thinking as creators of knowledge, and help prepare students for any future psychology research work.

For the research proposal, students will be asked to come up with a novel idea for a psychology research study. The research topic has to be relevant to the area of Personality Psychology and can include any of the personality variables discussed in class or any personality variables approved by the course instructor. The research design of the proposed study can be quantitative or qualitative in nature. A research proposal rubric outlining the marking scheme will be provided to students. It is important that the research proposal is an original piece of writing and uses proper referencing/citations (you will be asked to submit the research proposal through Turnitin).

Discussions (Total Worth: 10%)

Discussions in the course will be assessed through participation in online discussion forums on OWL. After each class, the instructor will create a discussion forum on OWL and post a discussion question.

Students are required to participate in **five discussions** throughout the course (worth 2% each). You can choose which discussions to participate in, however only the first five discussions submitted will be graded. Please ensure you have properly completed five discussions before the end of term, as there are no make-up discussions.

Participation in discussions consists of providing **two responses**:
ONE ORIGINAL RESPONSE: a response to that week's discussion question.
ONE CLASSMATE RESPONSE: a response to a classmate.

Students will be asked to respond by writing 200 – 350 words in response to the discussion question and to also write 200 – 350 words in response to one of their classmate's answers. Discussion posts will be graded (assigned a grade out of 2) according to the quality of the discussion posts and held to an appropriate average. A grading rubric will be provided before the first discussion opens.

Discussions will be posted after class for Lectures 1 to 11 (note: there will be no discussion corresponding to the final lecture 12). Discussion forums will open Wednesdays at 9:30pm and close Sundays at 11:55pm every week. Responses submitted after the forum has closed will not be graded.

6. Tentative Class Schedule/ Syllabus

The following schedule is a guideline only and may be subject to change. Please ensure you monitor announcements on OWL in order to receive updates about any revisions.

LECTURES	LECTURE TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
Lecture 1 September 8, 2021	Introduction to the Course & Personality	Lecture 1 Discussion
Lecture 2 September 15, 2021	Psychodynamic Theories	Lecture 2 Discussion
Lecture 3 September 22, 2021	Behaviorist and Social-Cognitive Theories	Lecture 3 Discussion
Lecture 4 September 29, 2021	Humanistic Theories	Lecture 4 Discussion
Lecture 5 October 6, 2021	Trait Theories	Lecture 5 Discussion
Lecture 6 October 13, 2021	Research/Measurement	Lecture 6 Discussion
No lecture October 20, 2021	MIDTERM	Midterm due: October 20
Lecture 7 October 27, 2021	Personality Questions Answered	Lecture 7 Discussion
No lecture November 1 – 7, 2021	READING WEEK	
Lecture 8 November 10, 2021	Personality & Self	Lecture 8 Discussion
Lecture 9 November 17, 2021	Personality & Others	Lecture 9 Discussion
Lecture 10 November 24, 2021	Personality & Health	Lecture 10 Discussion
Lecture 11 December 1, 2021	Intelligence <i>Guest Lecture: Dr. Tony Vernon</i>	Lecture 11 Discussion Proposal due: November 30
Lecture 12 December 8, 2021	Social & Emotional Intelligence	
December 10 – 21, 2021	FINAL EXAM During Final Exam Period	Final due: TBD (check Exam Schedule/Announcements)

7. Course Grade Expectations

Please note the Psychology Department policy on Grading Standards:

1000-level course: C grade (60%-69%) as evidence of satisfactory performance in Introductory Psychology.

2100-level course: B– grade (70%-74%) to be evidence of satisfactory performance in a 2100-level Psychology course.

3000-level course: B grade (75%-79%) to be evidence of satisfactory performance in 3000-level Psychology course.

4000-level course: A– grade (80-85%) to be evidence of satisfactory performance in 4000-level Psychology course.

8.0 FASS Appendix

Includes the required statements as per Senate Policy:

- Prerequisite checking – the student’s responsibility
- Statement on Use of Electronic Devices
- Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)
- Statement on Academic Offences
- Support Services



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event

that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

<http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.