



Introduction to Personality Psychology

Psychology 2300

Class webpage: www.paultrapnell.com/2300

Section 001, MWF 10:30-11:20 Room: 3L08

Section 002, MWF 11:30-12:20 Room: 3L08

Instructor: Dr. Paul Trapnell

Text: *Personality Psychology*, by Randy Larsen, David Buss, David King, Carolyn Ensley (1st Canadian Edition). The front cover of the assigned textbook is shown on the right.

Re: earlier editions: Although the preceding (5th) edition is likely to be 90% identical to the new Canadian 1st edition, there could be as many as 4-5 exam questions out of 50 (10%) based on material unique to the new edition. If that risk is acceptable to a student, I see nothing wrong with him or her using the preceding 5th edition. However, I do not recommend anyone use a textbook edition earlier than one edition prior to the current one.

Office: 4L39 • Office Hours: by appt. (use email below)

Email: paultrapnell@gmail.com

Course Description: This course introduces the general aspects of personality science. These may include (a) theories of personality, (b) personality assessment from a psychometric perspective; and (c) past and present research on personality processes and individual differences. Students should gain a good understanding of how the methods and findings of correlational and experimental research contribute to the study of personality from a natural science approach. The course will cover most but not necessarily all of these topics.

Evaluation: Course grades will be determined by 3 term tests (exams) and a cumulative discussion mark. Across the course, a total of 9 textbook chapters will be assigned as mandatory readings. Assigned chapters include all parts of those assigned textbook chapters whether or not class lectures covered all parts of those assigned chapters. Tests are based on these assigned readings PLUS any additional material covered in class lectures. Because lectures overlap a lot with textbook material but do include material not in the textbook readings, about 70% of the exam questions are based on textbook readings and about 30% are based on lecture information not covered in the textbook readings.

Small Group Discussions (these occur only five times)

Five times during the term, we will form small groups inside the classroom and you will discuss anything of interest from the text/lecture material of the preceding two weeks. **REQUIRED:** For each discussion day you must submit on that day 5 discussion questions WITH short answers for each of your five questions. You can base these submitted questions and short answers on anything covered in the preceding two weeks (in the textbook or lectures). Each of your five questions MUST include a brief answer or commentary, e.g., **3-5 sentences in which you try to answer or reflect thoughtfully on your question.** *There are no right or wrong answers to your questions—the goal is only to stimulate reflection and discussion of some of your questions/ideas during the very brief (30 min) small group discussion periods.* You must hand them in with your name and student# at the top of the page at the beginning of class during each of these five discussion days. You will be awarded **one discussion point each time.** Your submissions are NOT graded or returned. If you demonstrate reasonable effort indicating the task was taken seriously, and if you hand the assignment in on time, you will receive the point. If you fail to hand them in on time, or hand in something clearly unconscientious, you will not receive the point. Each of your submitted 5 sets of [5] discussion questions+ brief answers/comments can be handwritten (but I prefer typewritten) *if* your handwriting is clear and legible.

You will also receive an attendance point for each discussion period you attend, for a total of 5 attendance points. The maximum total number of discussion points is thus 10 points, or **10%** of your final grade. Most students get 10/10 pts.

Discussion dates (approx. every 2nd Friday): **Jan. 12,** **Jan.26,** **Feb. 9,** **Mar. 2,** **Mar. 16**

Exams: There will be 3 exams. **Except for 10 cumulative questions at the end of Exam 3** (described further below), all three exams are otherwise NON-CUMULATIVE: each is based only on material covered since the last test. Calculators, dictionaries, and handheld devices are NOT permitted during exams. Language translation dictionaries are allowed for ESL students (upon request). Photo ID is required during all three exams.

Exam Schedule. Test 1 will be given during the first week of February, and will cover chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the textbook, plus all lecture material up to that date. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Chapter 5 *is* assigned reading for Exam1, but I rarely lecture in class on that chapter. Exam 1 is 50 questions, all multiple-choice.

EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5

Friday, February 2nd

Test 2 will be given during the first week of March and will cover chapters 6 and 7 plus all lecture material since the last test. Exam 2 is 50 questions, all multiple-choice.

EXAM 2: Chapters 6 and 7

Friday, March 9th

Test 3 will be given on a date in April assigned to us by the university administration (not assigned yet, but will be very soon). This test is worth **38%** of the final grade. **IMPORTANT:** Exam 3 has a total of 60 questions--not 50. The first 50 questions, however, are all multiple-choice, and cover only the material since the last exam. After these **50 multiple-choice questions**, PLUS **10 fill-in-the-blank questions based on the whole course**. These 10 fill-in-the-blanks questions target very basic course knowledge ("most basic 10 things" per chapter) that you are likely to know by the end of the course if you were reasonably well prepared for each of the three term tests during the course.

EXAM3: Chapters 8, 11, and 19 **Held during the April exam period (Date TBA)**

VERY IMPORTANT: Chap 19, "Personality Disorders" is assigned reading for Exam3, but I do not lecture on that chapter.

Exam 3 is held during the formal April examination period at a time and location assigned by the University administration. When that time and date is announced I will update the online syllabus and announce this information to the class.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to slightly delay the date for each of the first 2 exams. Typically, any such change would be to have the test one [lecture] day later than the scheduled day.

Makeup exam: There is one common date and time for **all** makeup exams. This time is the hour immediately AFTER exam 3. Note that our exam 3 is held during the April final examination period. (The exact date and location will be announced when the administration finalizes the April examination schedule for the university). Permission to write a makeup exam must be granted by the instructor. Any missed exam will result in a mark of 0% unless the absence was excused by the instructor. Excused absences are those for medical, travel, or family reasons, where the instructor has been notified prior to the start of the missed exam (e.g., by email to: paultrapnell@gmail.com). Students with an excused absence from an exam will be permitted to write a makeup exam during the hour immediately after exam3 in that room where exam3 will be held (TBA).

There are no classes during Reading Week, Feb. 18th through Feb. 24. On Louis Riel Day (February 19th) the university buildings are closed. The university is also closed on Friday, March 30th for Good Friday.

The last class lecture is: **Thursday, April 5th**. This day makes up for a missed lecture day due to the Mar. 30th holiday.

Posting of Test Marks.

Test marks are reported on the class webpage approx. 7 days after the test: www.paultrapnell.com/2300

Final Grade. Letter grade score cut-offs are shown below:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|---|--------|---|-------|
| A+ | 95-100% | A- | 81-87% | B | 70-74% | C | 55-62% | F | 0-49% |
| A | 88-94% | B+ | 75-80% | C+ | 63-69% | D | 50-54% | | |

Grade calculation formula:

$$.26*(Exam1) + .26*(Exam2) + .38*(Exam3) + \text{discussion mark } (/10) = 100\%.$$

IMPORTANT STUFF TO NOTE CAREFULLY:

1. The above cutoffs are **tentative** and may be changed in either direction by (i) the professor, (ii) the Departmental Review Committee, or (iii) the Senate, when circumstances warrant. Such changes rarely occur but can occur.
2. **Voluntary Withdrawal:** The final date to withdraw from this course without penalty is **Wednesday, March 14th**. Please refer to the General Calendar for Voluntary Withdrawal procedures. **NOTE:** You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an "F" on your transcript and loss of tuition credit. *If you are considering withdrawing from this course, I encourage you to talk to me in case I can help in anyway.*
3. **Academic Misconduct:** Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of academic offenses. There is a section in the General Calendar on academic misconduct dealing with regulations on student discipline and grade appeals.
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.
4. **Religious Holy Days and Exam Dates.** Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>.
5. **Ensure that cell phone ringers are turned off during class.** Attendance in university is voluntary. If you attend class, you must respect others' need for quiet during class. I must therefore reserve the right to assess some sort of grading penalty (3-5% reduction of the final mark) for repeated disruptions of the lectures by a class member after several warnings to cease such disruptions. I have never had the need to assess such a penalty, thankfully, but this possibility must be noted in the service of protecting all students' educational rights.
6. **Services for Students with Disabilities:** Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.
7. **Medical and/or Personal Circumstances:** If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact Accessibility Services or Counselling Services **as soon as possible**. Problems may be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered.
8. **Maintain a Respectful Learning Environment.** All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.