

You are starting a course that many students find especially interesting because the study of personality has so many applications to both our understanding of human behaviour and to the way we live our own lives. In some ways, you should find your personal beliefs about human nature (and maybe the nature of life in general) a challenge; if so, this course will provoke some meaningful growth for you.

## PSYC 2530: Psychology of Personality Syllabus

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes PSYC 2530 as follows: The study of theory and research on the principles affecting personality development and structure. Students may not hold credit for both PSYC 3450 (or 017.345) and PSYC 3451 (or 017.345). Prerequisite: a grade of "C" or better in one of the following: PSYC 1200 (or 017.120) or PSYC 1201 (or 017.120), or both PSYC 1211 (or 017.121) and PSYC 1221 (or 017.122), or written consent of department head.

### CONTACT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter link in your course website.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- List the major concepts of each personality theory. Compare and contrast theories and their development.
- Discuss the validity of personality research methods and results and generate potential alternative explanations for findings;
- Apply your knowledge of personality theories and measurement to better understand your own and others' personalities
- Develop an appreciation for diversity in personality – identify how others may think, feel, and behave in systematically different ways based on their personal dispositions
- Explain how personality psychology relates to other areas of psychology (social, developmental, clinical) and non-academic realms (e.g., politics, social media, reality television)
- Articulate how the science of personality can be applied to areas of human behaviour such as goal-attainment, self-regulation, stress and happiness, parenting, close relationships, and the workplace.

### COURSE MATERIALS

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Miserandino, M. (2012). *Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings*, New Jersey: Pearson Education.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS & VIDEOS

Links and files for the required supplementary readings and videos will be available on the course website under the content tab.

### INTERACTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In addition to completing the textbook reading assignments independently, each chapter will offer an opportunity to engage more deeply with a topic of interest through assigned readings, videos, and online activities. For each assigned supplement, there will be corresponding discussion assignment. For these assignments, you will have the opportunity to discuss thought-provoking questions with other students in small groups. These discussions will provide an opportunity for you to freely express your opinions without being graded on the specific content of what you write. These discussions are also assignments for this course. As long as you participate the required number of times, and your comments are on topic, you will get full credit for these assignments. Throughout the semester, you will receive credit for responding to your classmates on 6 of 12 discussion topics. You will receive full participation credit for peer responses on 6 different topics, but you are encouraged to engage in discussion with your classmates on all 12!

### COURSE STRUCTURE

Each unit will begin with a brief written introduction that will state the key learning objectives for that particular unit. After you read this introduction, go over the assigned textbook reading material through once lightly, to capture the main points of the material. Next, read the assigned material in detail. At the end of each unit there is a self-test to help you judge the level of your mastery of the material and to help you prepare for your graded assignments and the final exam. The self-tests are set up so that you can complete the tests and see the answers. These are important to do because

they have the same format as the assignments and the exam.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

In this course you will be evaluated on:

- Your performance on three assignments completed during the term; Assignments consist of 20 multiple choice questions (Part A, scored automatically) and several long answer questions (Part B, to be submitted to the dropbox and scored by your instructor).
- Answers to twelve thought-provoking questions by completing the supplementary readings/videos/activities and participating in online discussion group for each chapter.
- Six responses to your classmates' discussion items (1 response on 6 of 12 topics).
- Your performance on the final exam conducted during the exam period.

## DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS

<b>Exam</b>	40%
<b>Assignment 1</b>	16%
<b>Assignment 2</b>	16%
<b>Assignment 3</b>	16%
<b>12 Discussion Topics</b>	10%
<b>6 Discussion Responses</b>	2%

## GRADING SCALE

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage Range</b>
A+	91-100
A	85-90
B+	79-84
B	73-78
C+	67-72
C	60-66
D	50-59
F	0-49

## ASSIGNMENTS

You are **required** to complete **three** assignments, **twelve** online discussions, and **six** online responses.

**Note:** If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor well in advance of the due date, for we cannot guarantee that the instructor will accept late assignments.

## ONLINE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

The online discussion boards offer students the opportunity to interact with other students and the instructor by discussing important and interesting issues in the course. Most students find the conference system very easy to use. For each one discussion will center on "provocative questions" related to the material that you will study. (In each case there is one general question with a number of suggested "sub-questions" to prompt your thinking.) These discussions are not tests, they are your chance to write about what you think and believe. You will find and use relevant material from the course to use in the discussions. In doing so, you are entirely free to agree or disagree with, and/or ignore both the text and supplements if you wish. The only requirement is that you stay on the topic of the thought-provoking question. To receive full marks for each discussion topic, you will need to contribute to the conferences with a minimum short post (250-500 words). Each conference will be open for one week and you may submit

your contributions at any time of the day that is convenient for you during that time. You will also be given opportunity to respond to other people's posts. In your responses you can ask questions about what others wrote, expand on their thoughts, respectfully disagree with their viewpoint and justify why, etc. Deadlines for contributions will be set so that everyone has a chance to respond to someone else. You are not limited in the amount of times you can post on the message boards, however; you may leave more if you wish.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Due dates for your assignments are listed in the course schedule. Each assignment consists of multiple-choice questions (PART A – completed online) **and** long-answer questions (PART B – submitted to the dropbox), which you are to answer based on your knowledge from the textbook, activities, and assigned supplements. Refer to the Distance and Online Education Student Handbook for information about submitting your assignments. Assignment grades will be posted along with an answer key, which will give you some idea of your level of mastery of the material. You are encouraged to contact your instructor if you desire more detailed feedback on any of your responses. **Note:** It is important to remember that you are responsible for knowing the material for all units for the final exam. The final examination will draw about equally from each module. Completing your assignments without the assistance of your textbook will give you a good sense of the extent to which you are able to recall the material and is good practice for the final exam (where you will not be permitted to use your text).

## FINAL EXAM

The final exam is a three hour closed book exam that will consist of 70 multiple choice questions worth one point each, six definitions worth two points each, and three long answer questions worth six points each. The questions on the exam will be very similar to the practice questions at the end of each unit and on the assignments, so you should use them as a guide to how well you know the material.

The final exam will be written at the University of Manitoba (UM), Fort Garry campus or at an approved off-campus location. Students needing to write at an off-campus location must declare a location by the specified deadline date (see off-campus declaration and policy under Student Resources on course homepage). Students writing at the UM Fort Garry campus do not need to declare an exam location.

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the [final exam schedule](#) which is available approximately one month after the start of the course.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENT AND FINAL EXAM PREPARATION

Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, because the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open book, they do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires nor are they limited to a specific time period. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination.

Please keep all this in mind as you prepare for the examination. If your course has a sample exam or practice questions, use them to practice for the examination by setting a time limit and not having any books available. Pay careful attention to the description of the type of questions that will be on your final examination. Preparing for multiple-choice questions involves a different type of studying than preparing for essay questions. Do not underestimate the stress involved in writing a time-limited examination.

## SOME STUDY ADVICE

Here are some suggestions about how to approach the study of a textbook. First, read the introduction to the unit and then proceed to your text and assigned reading. To get an overview of the text chapter, skim the chapter and use the bold print headings to give you some idea of what the chapter says. This general approach is summarized in the "SQ4R" study system: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Reflect and Review.

SQ4R tells you first to survey the whole chapter, getting as much as you can out of it without actually reading it in detail. As you survey, formulate questions about the headings. In fact, many headings can be reformulated as questions. Then start your reading, covering all the material but focusing mainly on the answers to the questions you formulate. Pretend you are explaining the material to someone—recite it—and it will become much clearer.

Oftentimes we learn more by teaching than we do by studying things on our own because we have to be clear in order to be able to articulate knowledge to others. In fact, this course is designed to provide you with knowledge that you can use—in discussions, in understanding other things you read, and in sharing your knowledge with others. That is why you'll sometimes see assignment and exam questions of the sort, "How would you tell a friend the essence of experiential knowing? That is, what would you say the main purpose is to have in mind?" As you recite the main points, reflect on their meaning; think about them. Then, review the material, by skimming the chapters again or by reviewing any notes that you may have taken.

Students often wonder how much detailed knowledge will be required. The self-tests and assignments will give a good idea of the depth of information expected. A general rule of thumb is that if you understand the meaning of the major headings and concepts that appear in italics and in quotation marks in the text you should do well. The only names you will be responsible for will be for famous persons whose work is discussed at length. In the

area of Personality, the names of the major theorists are quite important. Often in test and assignment questions, researchers will be referred to by name, but your most important clues to the question will come from the description of their research. For example, in the statement, "In a study of delay of gratification, Smith (1995) found...." You are not expected to remember Smith, but rather the general finding.

## RESOURCES

If you want to read further on a topic, using some of the books and articles mentioned in your text or in the lectures, you can order reference materials from Dafoe Library through the Off-Campus Library Services.

As well, you can contact your instructor, Distance and Online Education Program/Student Services staff, and any other office on-campus by telephone without paying for long distance charges. (More information on this is included in your instructor's Letter of Introduction).

## PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND EXAMINATION IMPERSONATION

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

### DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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University of Manitoba, Distance and Online Education