

Introduction to Personality Theory and Research  
Psychology 2550B, section 530  
***PROVISIONAL*** Outline 2014

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 - 3:30 pm, and by appointment.

Class times: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Wednesdays 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, room 304.

**Required reading:**

Textbook - Mischel, W., Shoda, Y., & Ayduk, O. (2008). *Introduction to personality: Toward an integrative science of the person* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Additional readings will be made available through library reserve and/or OWL site.

**Course Description**

“A survey of the history, methodology and content of the study of individual differences. Topics to be covered include: evaluation of typical personality assessment methods and a consideration of modern empirical research in personality theory and assessment” (UWO Academic Calendar).

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, among other skills, students should have a basic understanding of :

- the major psychological theories of personality and their application
- the lives of major theorists and how their backgrounds may have influenced their theories
- research methodology in personality, including methods of personality assessment
- outcomes of research into personality.

**Evaluation**

There will be one mid-term test and a final exam, each based on the text, lectures and any additional assigned readings. The test and exam will each consist of multiple-choice questions only and will not be cumulative.

Attendance at in-class discussions is mandatory. There will be four discussion sessions, usually held during the Wednesday lecture period. Answers to set questions on an assigned reading or exercise are to be handed in at the end of each discussion. Marks will be given for discussion participation (attendance and report). Discussion marks will include a component for participation; 10 % of assignment mark will be deducted for non-attendance at discussion. Assigned readings are held on reserve in the Brescia library and may be accessible through the internet and the course OWL site. Dates for discussions and the reading required for each are noted on the topic outline.

*Note: The assignments for in-class discussions and other activities are designed to offer students a variety of learning experiences.*

## Marks

Mid-term	40 %
Final	40 %
Discussions	20 % (i.e. 5 % each)

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these policies and regulations.

In keeping with university regulations, failure to attend a test or exam **will result in a mark of zero**, unless documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided. Social events, travel plans, vacations, misreading the test schedule or sleeping in are not legitimate reasons for missing a test. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to write a make-up test. The instructor must be notified of any such case as soon as possible, and the student request a make-up. If the instructor allows a make-up test, the student will be expected to write the test within a week or two after the missed test.

Late submission of assignments will result in a penalty of 10% of assignment mark per day and late submissions will not be marked after the fifth day, unless evidence of extenuating circumstances has been provided. All submissions must be typed or clearly hand-written. Illegible handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

**N.B. There will be no re-taking of tests/examinations nor extra work available for the purpose of improving grades.** You must plan to study and prepare well in advance of examinations. The course involves a fair amount of reading on your own. It is best to read text sections before the corresponding lectures. You are advised to attend every lecture - especially as in this course attendance for discussions is mandatory. If you are unable to attend a discussion session, arrange to be excused in advance. Missing lectures is the responsibility of the student. Should you be absent you are advised to find out what material you missed and make arrangements to catch up on that material. It is pointless to come to any instructor at the end of the term to plead for a higher grade on grounds that you had problems (personal or academic). Deal with problems as soon as they arise - see someone, take action - no-one will think less of you for doing so; in fact it shows intelligence and sense of personal responsibility.

## Contacts

Be warned, I may not check email throughout the day. Anyway, if you need to ask questions it is better to talk to me, so come and see me at classes or in my office. You may also telephone the Brescia number given above (if I am not in, leave a message). If you do choose to use email, please note:

- (i) a reply may not be immediate
- (ii) general questions sent *via* email will be answered in class, for the benefit of all, especially in the case of questions where the information has already been provided in some other form; e.g., "When is the next test?" That information is provided on the course outline and will be reiterated in class.

Failure to attend a test will result in a mark of zero, unless documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided. It is the student's responsibility to **ask for** a "make-up" test. Late submission of assignments (discussion papers) will result in a penalty of 10% per day and late submissions will not be marked after the fifth day. In accordance with University guidelines, all submissions must be typed or clearly hand-written. Illegible handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a zero for that portion of the course evaluation - you cannot get those marks any other way. A single percentage point can mean a higher letter grade, or the difference between passing and failing the course, so at least attempt the discussion assignments!

### Senate Regulations

Senate regulations require that students' attention be directed to the information regarding issues such as plagiarism and course antirequisites. See the policies and regulations pages at the end of this outline, and check the UWO calendar for further details. Again, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any such regulations.

*Note: In Psychology you are expected to follow the American Psychological Society (APA) guidelines for writing and for acknowledgement of sources, and to use APA referencing format. Further information on use of APA style will be given in class. There is also a copy of the APA style manual on reserve in the Brescia library.*

Basically, anything copied word-for-word, even a phrase, without acknowledgement of the original author and/or source is plagiarism.

Please see also the UWO regulations on *Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students* in the Academic Handbook (available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>). These university regulations will be followed. The class discussions and papers, at 4% each, come under policy regarding "work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course". If you have a valid reason for missing one of the discussions you should let me know - in advance if possible (e.g., doctor's appointment; interview) - and request accommodation. In such cases medical or other documentation will not normally be required for this course.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in an 020-level Psychology course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.

**Antirequisites:** None.

**PROVISIONAL Topic outline** - note that this listing is to provide an idea of when topics are scheduled to be covered, but over the course of the term lectures may move ahead of, or fall behind, the absolute dates.

**PROVISIONAL TOPIC OUTLINE - Psychology 2550B, 2014**

**Topic Outline:** Please follow this schedule carefully. Note that the chapters to be read for each week do not necessarily occur in numerical order (the order in which they appear in the textbook).

	Date		Topic	Text chapters/Readings
	Mon	Wed		
Jan.	6	8	Introduction to course	<b>1; 2</b>
	13	15	Psychodynamics: Freud; Psychodynamic processes	<b>7; 8 (pp. 195-206)</b>
	20	22	Ego psychology: the “Neofreudians” <i>Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Discussion 1: TBA</i>	<b>9; 8 (pp. 184-194)</b>
	27	29	Psychodynamic personality assessment	<b>8 (pp. 179-184)</b>
Feb.	3	5	Trait theories	<b>3, 4</b>
	10	12	Measurement of traits <i>Wed. 12<sup>th</sup>, Discussion 2: TBA</i>	--
	17	19	<b>Reading week</b> - no classes	
	24	26	<b>Mid-Term Test</b> - Chapters 1 to 4, 7, 8, & 9.	
Mar.	3	5	Biological theories	<b>5, 6</b>
	10	12	Behavioural approaches <i>Wed. 12<sup>th</sup>, Discussion 3: TBA</i>	<b>10, 11</b>
	17	19	Cognitive-Social approaches	<b>14 (pp. 349-371)</b>
	24	26	Self-concepts and Self-regulation <i>Wed. 25<sup>th</sup>, Discussion 4: TBA</i>	<b>15</b>
	31	Apr. 2	Phenomenology Cognitive Therapies	<b>12</b> <b>14 (pp. 371-375)</b>
Apr.	7	Examples: Morality; Aggression	--	
Apr.	11 - 30	<b>Final Exam</b> - during final exam period, date TBA. Chapters 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, & 15.		

**Note:** Pages 405-414 provide summarization of the different theoretical views and may be useful for test/exam studying. Chapter 13 and the final three chapters of the textbook (16, 17 & 18) will not be directly used for this course, but can be read for interest/further understanding.

All articles for discussion are held on reserve in the Brescia library and may be available through the internet/OWL site. Please DO NOT write on any reserve hard copies - remember other students have to use the articles. Take your own photocopy or print off a copy if you wish to mark on the article as you read. **It is strongly recommended that you take copies of the articles with you to the relevant discussions.** Additional material may be distributed in class - for reading and/or in-class discussions.

# BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). 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 eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

#### **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html) . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.