



Course Syllabus

Psyc231: Personality Psychology

Winter term 2014

Mon 4-5pm and Wed 2:30-4pm in CHERN AUD

Instructor: Dr. Valerie Murphy (candidate)

Instructor Contact Information: v.murphy@queensu.ca

Office Hours: by appointment

TAs: Christine Lambert & Cherie La Rocque

TA Contact Information: psyc231@queensu.ca

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Goals and Objectives

This course is intended to introduce students to both the foundations (theory) and findings (research) of personality psychology. This course is evidence-based, focusing on what psychologists have discovered about human personality. The course will provide a broad overview of the various areas or perspectives of personality research including traits, genetics, neuroscience, self and identity, psychoanalytic, and cognitive/behavioural perspectives. This course will also introduce students to personality assessment and research methods. Most importantly, there will be a focus on cutting edge research and developments in the understanding of personality, such as the widely accepted "Big Five" approach and gender differences in personality. Upon completion of this course, students will have an understanding of "good" personality measurement, the major areas and theoretical perspectives of personality research, and (hopefully) ultimately be able to relate these findings to understanding their own, and others', personality and behaviour.

Evaluations

Midterm Exam	45%	Week 5 (February 5 th)
Final Exam	55%	April Exam Period (TBD)

Textbook

Miserandino, M. (2012). *Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings*. Boston, MA: Pearson Academic.

Loose-leaf or Hard Copy versions available in the Campus Bookstore

Accommodation Policy

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of *honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility* (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the

"freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities

<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/2011-2012-calendar/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Calculator Policy

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Course Outline

<i>Week of ...</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
January 6 (week 1)	Course Introduction	Chapter 1
January 13 (week 2)	Personality Traits	Chapters 2, 3
January 20 (week 3)	Personality Assessment	Chapter 4
January 27 (week 4)	Self and Identity	Chapter 5
February 3 (week 5)	Genetics and Evolutionary Theory	Chapter 6
February 10 (week 6)	Midterm Monday <i>(NO CLASS WEDNESDAY)</i>	Assigned Readings on Moodle
February 17 (week 7)	Reading Week	
February 24 (week 8)	Neuroscience of Personality	Chapter 7
March 3 (week 9)	Psychoanalytic Perspectives	Chapter 8
March 10 (week 10)	Regulation and Motivation	Chapter 9
March 17 (week 11)	Cognitive Foundations	Chapter 10
March 24 (week 12)	Gender and Personality	Chapter 11
March 31 (week 13)	Part I: Sexual Orientation Part II: Resilience	Chapters 12, 13