

# Personality Psychology (Psychology 305A) Winter 2008 Term 2

## Meeting Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Section 1: 2:00-3:30 pm

Section 2: 3:30-5:00 pm

## Office Hours

Instructor: Professor Jessica Tracy ([jltracy@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:jltracy@psych.ubc.ca))

Phone: 604-822-2718

Room 3515 Kenny

Tuesdays 12:30-1:30, or by appointment (please email for appointments)

## Teaching assistants:

Alicia Spidel - [aliciaspidel@aim.com](mailto:aliciaspidel@aim.com)

Joey Cheng - [joeycheng@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:joeycheng@psych.ubc.ca)

Sabrina Kitching - [sabrinak@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:sabrinak@interchange.ubc.ca)

Alena Talbot-Ellis - [alena@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:alena@psych.ubc.ca)

Regular office hours by appointment; TAs will set office hours to go over exams after each exam.

If you are in Section 1, please email Alicia or Joey. If you are in Section 2, please email Sabrina or Alena.

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of personality. Personality refers to consistencies in people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior over time and across situations. Topics will include methods of personality research and an overview of the primary theoretical perspectives in the field. The course will consist of two lectures per week, including film segments, writing exercises, and class discussions.

## Required Reading

Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2008). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge* (3rd Edition). Boston: McGraw Hill.

## Course Requirements and Grading

**Exams:** There will be two midterms and a final exam, each of which will be primarily focused on the topics covered in the section of the class immediately preceding the exam. However, the second mid-term and the final exam will also call for knowledge acquired cumulatively across the class thus far. Exam questions (multiple choice and short essay) will be based on material from the lectures and readings.

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.** If you have a medical emergency (doctor's note required), I will waive the exam you find yourself needing to miss, and your final grade will be based on the mean of the other two exams. If you know now that you will need to miss either mid-term, you should plan to sign up for this course next year instead.

### **Homework**

**Assignments:** After certain classes, you will be asked to write a brief (1 pg max.) essay. These will be graded on a pass/fail basis, and you will receive 1 point toward your final grade for each completed HW (total = 2% of your final grade). **LATE HWs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** HWs must be turned in, in class, in hard-paper form. No exceptions without a doctor's note.

**Grading:** The two midterms will be worth 30% of your total grade each (60% total), and the final will be worth 38% of your total grade. The remaining 2% of your grade will come from pass/fail HW assignments. You also may receive up to 2 extra credit points (for a total of 102 points) for participating in the Department of Psychology's subject pool. You will receive 1 extra credit point for every hour you participate in an experiment. To receive credit for experiment participation, you will need to sign up and receive credit through the Dept. subject pool website: <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>.

Please note that final grades may be scaled.

### **Web**

**Resources:** Slides from each lecture will be posted on the web after each class; you should download these files and use them as study guides. Go to Professor Tracy's website: [www.ubc-emotionlab.ca/~jltracy](http://www.ubc-emotionlab.ca/~jltracy), and click on the tab labeled "Teaching". Then, click on the webpage for this class, Psych 305A. You will need a password to get onto the class homepage; it's "personality".

It is important to note that the slides posted on the web will not cover everything that is covered in class. If you miss class, you should download the slides and ask a classmate for additional notes. I will NOT respond to emails asking about the contents of lectures that were missed. If you email to find out what you missed in class, you will receive the reply: "see lecture notes". If you don't know anyone in the class to email, now is a good time to meet someone and get their email address.

**Email Policy:** I will provide only 1-sentence responses via email. If you have a question that cannot be answered in a single sentence or less, please see me before or after either class, or come to office hours (or make an appt.) and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Emails requiring responses longer than 1-sentence will, in all likelihood, NOT be answered. For all email

responses, please permit more than 24 hours before expecting a response (e.g., you are unlikely to receive a response the night before an exam). Emails will generally not be answered over the weekend.

### Course Calendar

#### **Week 1**

Tues., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> Review of syllabus

Thurs., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> Overview of Personality  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 1

#### **Week 2**

Tues., Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Research Methods in Personality  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 2

Thurs., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> Research Methods Wrap-Up  
Psychoanalytic Approaches: Freud  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 9

#### **Week 3**

Tues., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> Freud Part II

Thurs., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> Psychoanalytic Approaches: After Freud; Narcissism  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 10

#### **Week 4**

Tues., Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Motives and the Phenomenological/Humanistic Approach  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 11

Thurs., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> The Self  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 14

#### **Week 5**

Tues., Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> Self-Esteem  
HW: Self-defining memory (Due TODAY)

Thurs., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Film: 35 Up!  
NO HW!

#### **Week 6**

Tues., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Traits and Trait Taxonomies  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 3

Thurs., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> Midterm Exam I

**Week 7- NO CLASSES: Midwinter Break**

<b>Week 8</b>		
	Tues., Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Theoretical and Measurement Issues in Trait Psychology Larsen & Buss: Chapters 4 & 5
	Thurs., Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Personality Dispositions over time Wrap up Trait approach Begin genetic approach NO HW!
<b>Week 9</b>		
	Tues., March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Genetic Approach Larsen & Buss: Chapter 6
	Thurs., March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Physiological Approach Larsen and Buss: Chapter 7
<b>Week 10</b>		
	Tues., March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Evolutionary Approach Larsen & Buss, Chapter 8
	Thurs., March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cognitive Topics in Personality I Learning and Behaviorism No HW!
<b>Week 11</b>		
	Tues., March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Cognitive Topics in Personality II Modern Cognitive Approach Larsen & Buss: Chapter 12
	Thurs., March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm Exam II
<b>Week 12</b>		
	Tues., March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Emotion and Personality Larsen & Buss: Chapter 13
	Thurs., March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Personality and Social Interactions Larsen and Buss: Chapter 15
<b>Week 13</b>		
	Tues., April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sex and Gender Larsen & Buss: Chapter 16
	Thurs., April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sex Roles HW: Sex roles (DUE TODAY)

**Week 14**

Tues., April 8<sup>th</sup>      Culture and Personality  
Larsen & Buss: Chapter 17

Thurs., April 10<sup>th</sup>      Wrap Up Culture  
Overview and Review for final exam  
Larsen & Buss Chapter 20

**Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading may be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).