

# THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

**Classroom A236**

Monday: 1:30 - 4:20 pm




**Instructor:** Dr. Darren Campbell **Office:** H236
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**Office Hours:** Mondays 4:30 – 5 pm; Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 pm & other meeting times by appointment

## Required Text

*Personality Psychology: Foundations and Findings* (2012) by M. Miserandino. Reading this textbook is necessary for the course. The text (printed or digital) is available in the bookstore.

## Course Description and Objectives

This course will introduce you to the major theories, concepts, and findings in the psychology of Personality through course readings, lectures, videos, discussions, and various assignments. You will learn how people differ in their emotional reactions, motivations, interpersonal approaches, cognitive biases, and fundamental belief systems. These perspectives will include evaluating different structural, process, and developmental models of personality.

Lectures will include textbook material, supplementary information video clips, interactive question-and-answer periods, and in-class exercises. Basic PowerPoint slides of the lectures will be available on Blackboard. Although you are responsible for learning all content covered in class and all specified textbook information, the lectures will facilitate your understanding of the course materials.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. identify and distinguish among theories and explanations of Personality psychology,
2. recognise core empirical findings in Personality psychology on topics such as identity of self, emotional reactions, cognitive biases, and resilience, and
3. relate scientific theory and empirical findings to personal, real-world situations.

## Evaluation

| | |
|---|---|
| Online Blackboard Quizzes | 9% |
| 2 Papers / Peer Reviews | 8% (4% each) |
| Term Paper | 15% |
| 2 Mid-Term Exams | 38% (19% each) |
| Final Exam | 30% (multiple choice) |
| Bonus (optional) | 3% |

## Letter Grades

"A" – (80-100%) "B" – (70-79%) "C" – (60-69%) "D" – (50-59%) "F" – (0-49%)

To see letter grade performance descriptions, see:
http://www.nipissingu.ca/calendar/regulations/academic/Pages/Evaluation-and-Grading-System.aspx

Note 1: Grades will not be rounded up. A final score of 69.7% will be 69%.

Note 2: To reward improved learning, if you score substantially higher (+20% or greater) on the final exam than you did on the mean of your two midterms, then I will increase the weighting of the final exam to 40% from 30% and reduce the weighting of each midterm by 5%.

*Keep track of your marks and save your assignments until you have your official final grade.*

**Online Quizzes (9%)**
For most textbook chapters, you will have the opportunity to complete a multiple-choice quiz focused on the chapter content. These quizzes will be administered online through Blackboard with a specific and limited time-window in which to complete the quiz. Each quiz will be worth 1% of your final mark.

**Paper and Peer-Review Assignments (23% total)**
You will pick a focused topic for the intermediate writing / peer-review assignments and the associated term paper. The topic is flexible, but it must be complex enough to allow you to explore in thinking and writing the relevance and role of personality on the topic. You will need to meet with me and get my approval.

Paper and Peer-Review Assignments (4% each)
For each of these assignments, you will write and discuss a section of your term paper with a group of your classmates. You also will need to provide peer review feedback during these lab sessions. I will provide more details with the assignment.

Term Paper (15%)
For this assignment, you will write a term paper on your selected topic of interest. The paper will incorporate revised versions of the two earlier paper assignments and answer additional sections on your topic of interest. I will provide more details with the assignment.

**Midterms 1 & 2 (19 % each)***
The midterms will be non-cumulative covering all material covered (textbook and lecture/lab content) up to the date of the test. For Midterm 2, this excludes the material previously tested in Midterm 1. Both midterms will be based on multiple-choice questions primarily.

**Final Exam (30%)***
The final exam will be comprehensive / cumulative testing your knowledge on all material covered during the course from the beginning. The final exam will be all multiple-choice questions.

*Make-up exams will be permitted ONLY for medical or compassionate reasons with appropriate documentation. Make-up exam format may differ from the original. If you cannot write the make-up exam in a timely manner, you will receive a score of zero.

**Questions**
Please check the course syllabus and Blackboard course website before asking me for basic information. These resources provide class information on scheduling of classes, due-dates, lecture resources, chapter quizzes, and lab assignments. For commonly raised questions, I will post answers on Blackboard.

If you are confused about something, **please ask**. Other students also are likely confused.

If you wish a personal, confidential meeting and cannot meet during my office hours, contact me to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.

To contact me, I prefer email – darrenc@nipissingu.ca .

Students occasionally know they will have to miss classes due to certain formal events. In this case, students must inform me of the intended absences at least two weeks in advance for scheduled tests or assignments.

**Treating your Classmates and Professor with Respect: University culture**

We all prefer a positive classroom environment that supports learning. Disruptive and selfish activities, such as talking during lectures, watching videos, and engaging in social media activities are unacceptable. These activities are distracting and unfair to your classmates who have come to class to learn.

Practice university-level learning. Ask and answer questions, and share your ideas in class. Class will be more interesting, you will learn more, and you will enjoy the experience!

Manage your schedule appropriately to complete assignments and prepare adequately for exams. Do not procrastinate and avoid excuses such as: *I couldn't complete X because my internet access was down*, *blackboard was not working*, etc. If you plan carefully, you will have sufficient opportunities to complete all course-related tasks. Do not cram; distribute your study activities over time.

Plagiarism or any form of cheating is subject to serious academic penalty and can result in serious consequences.

**My Goal**

I hope that you will finish this course with a greater understanding, better insight, and a more thorough appreciation of how people differ as individuals. If you also enjoy this course, that would be nice!

***Tentative* Lecture Schedule and Important Dates**

| Date | Readings + | Topic | BB Quizzes (1% each) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan 18 | Syllabus | Admin/Intro → Ex. Seat Selection | |
| Jan 25 | Ch. 2 | Traits: Big Factors → Ex. Bipolar | 2 |
| | Jan 31 - Last Day to Register for WI courses | | |
| Feb 01 | Ch. 3 | Trait Variations / Film Evaluation 1 | 3 |
| Feb 08 | Ch.4 | Assessment / Paper –Peer Review 1 | 4 |
| | Feb 15-19 - Family Day & Study Week – no classes | | |
| Feb 22 | **Midterm 1** / Ch. 6 | Exam 1 / Genes (pp. 156-164) | |
| Feb 29 | Ch. 7 | Neuroscience | 7 |
| Mar 7 | Ch. 5 | Self | 5 |
| Mar 14 | Ch. 8 | Intrapsychic | 8 |
| | Mar 17 - Last Day to Withdraw from WI courses | | |
| Mar 21 | **Midterm 2** | Exam 2 / Film Evaluation 2 | |
| | Mar 25th Good Friday - university closed | | |
| | Mar 28th Class Deferred - Easter Monday – university closed | | |
| Apr 04 | Ch. 9 | Regulation / Paper –Peer Review 2 | 9 |
| Apr 11 | Ch. 10 | Cognitive / Film Evaluation 3 | 10 |
| Apr 18 | Ch. 11/12/13 | Gender (pp. 322--) / Sex. Orient. / Resilience | 11+12+13 combined |
| Apr 20-30 | **Final Exam** | | |



**You must be available for your final exam during the final examination period.**

## Extra Marks Options

There is an opportunity to earn extra marks (maximum of 3%) in this course. All Option 1 participation must be completed on or before **Tuesday, April 19th, 2016.** All Option 2 assignments must be completed on or before **Wednesday, April 11th, 2016**. I describe each of these options below.

Options 2 is a graded assignment. To increase your chance of getting full marks, follow the instructions carefully. You are free to participate in both Options 1 and 2.

## Option 1: Participation in research

You may volunteer to participate in research experiments that are being carried out by researchers at Nipissing University who have registered to participate in the SONA system. Each experiment will have details about what it entails and how many credits you will receive for participating. In this class, you can earn up to a maximum of 3% extra credit which will be added to your final grade at the end of the term. **Please note: 1 credit = 1 hour of research credit = 1%. So, 0.5 credits = 0.5 hours of research credit = 0.5%.**

Research experiments are accessed via an online system called SONA. **To use this system, you first must enroll yourself as a user.**

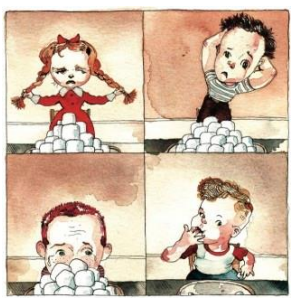
To enroll in SONA, go to: https://nipissingu.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f .

Once there, click "**Request an account here**" located in the lower left-hand corner of the screen just below "**New Participant?**" You will then be prompted to enter some basic information about yourself. You will also be asked to submit an "**xxxxxx@community.nipissingu.ca**" email address. You MUST use your Nipissing email address for this. Once completed, you will be sent an email with a password.

When you are reviewing the full list of experiments, click an experiment's link to get information about the length of the study, what the study entails, whether you are eligible, and where the study takes place. If you choose to participate YOU MUST click on "**view available time slots,**" and **register for a timeslot that fits in your schedule**. You cannot simply show up at a time without having registered for that timeslot.

If you need to cancel the time for which you have signed up, you must login to the system and cancel your participation appointment. The particular experiment will indicate how much advanced cancellation notice (time) is necessary to avoid receiving a "no show" rating. **After two "no shows," your access to the system will be blocked, and you will not able to participate in any further experiments for the remainder of the semester.**

When you sign up for an experiment you will receive an email confirmation with the date, time, and location of the experiment. It is also a good idea to **write down the date, time, location of the experiment** and the experimenter's name and email address.



**Option 3: Special Personality Topic Presentation**

**Worth 3%**

Your general task is to construct and present a brief presentation on a personality-related topic of interest to you. You will need to email me the slides and then give the oral presentation to me. If you do not want to perform an oral presentation, you can submit a 2-page written summary to accompany your presentation.

Specific Tasks and Dates:

1) Seek and receive my general approval for the presentation topic by **February 1st, 2016**.

2) Construct and email me a brief outline of the planned presentation by **Feb 29th, 2016**. This outline should include a description of the general question / topic of interest, identification and definition of the key concepts, and the method you intend to use to investigate your topic.

3) Discuss and refine your presentation approach with me and get my final approval by **March 9th, 2016**.

4) Present your presentation to me or submit your two-page written summary no later than **April 11th, 2016**.

Presentation Details:

You will construct a presentation (PowerPoint or parallel software) composed of 10-15 informative and interesting slides that:

a) introduce and describe your topic
b) comment on two key theories, models, or biological explanations most relevant to this topic
c) define the key terms and concepts
d) identify and describe study results which suggest answers or insight into your research topic

Two-page Written Summary details:

This two-page summary should be in sentence and paragraph format. It should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and the pages need to have 2.54 cm borders. You need a separate title page with the title, author, date, course name (Theories of Personality PSYC 2616), assignment name (Special Psychology Topic Presentation), and professor name (Dr. Darren Campbell).

