Personality 3280.03

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Dalhousie University: Fall

Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce you to major contemporary theories of personality. In addition to describing each theoretical orientation, we will also critically evaluate them with reference to the relevant research literature and discuss important conceptual issues and controversies. There will be some overlap between the material presented in the text and in the lectures. However, there will also be a lot of unique material presented only in the lectures. It is thus strongly recommended that you attend every lecture. It is also suggested that you complete the assigned readings before attending lectures.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Simon B. Sherry, Ph.D., Registered Psychologist
Office Hours:	by appointment
Contact Information:	simon.sherry@dal.ca
Lecture Times and Location:	Tuesday and Thursday: 0835-0955 (LSC-PSYCHOLOGY P4260)
Teaching Assistant:	Greta Jang
Office Hours:	by appointment
Contact Information:	gretaej@dal.ca

How to reach your instructor:

If the required contact is minimal, email exchanges may suffice. Otherwise, I welcome you to attend my office hours. To assist me in providing you with a helpful response to your emails, all your emails should include your name, your B00 number, and your course information (Personality 3280.03). I also welcome you to speak with me after class.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Larsen, R. J., Buss, D. M., & King, D. (2023). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (3rd Canadian ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.

Your required textbook may be purchased here:
https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,202710,PSYO,PSYO3280,01

CLASS FORMAT AND EVALUATION

The course will consist of lectures, assigned readings, and three tests. For the tests, you will be responsible for all material covered in the lectures as well as all the assigned readings up to the point of the test. To ensure your success in the course, you are encouraged to complete the assigned readings, attend lectures, ask questions, and participate in the class discussion. On-campus attendance is required. In-person lectures will not be recorded.

Evaluation:	**Date**	**Value**
Test 1:	Sept. 29	30%
Test 2:	Oct. 27	30%
Test 3:	TBD: During Exam Period	40%

●Test 1 is based on Chapters 1, 3, and 5; Lecture 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

●Test 2 is based on Chapters 15 and 8; Lecture 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14

●Test 3 is based on Chapters 19 and 18; Lecture 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

The above course requirements and weights are final and will not be adjusted. Final marks are final and will not be adjusted to “boost” students into the next letter grade. Partial final percentage points will be rounded up when .500 or greater; partial final percentage points will be rounded down when .499 or less. To illustrate, a score of 89.499 will be rounded down and then assigned a grade of "A," whereas a score of 89.500 will be rounded up and then assigned a grade of "A+."

Requests for special consideration should be directed to the course instructor, not the teaching assistant. Exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances provided the student presents legitimate and documented reasons for failing to complete stated course requirements.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date (Lecture Type)	General Topics	Assigned Readings	Relevant Lectures
Sept. 8 (in-person)	introduction to personality	chapter 1	lecture 1
Sept. 10 (in-person)	traits and trait taxonomies	chapter 3	lecture 2
Sept. 15 (in-person)	traits and trait taxonomies	none	lecture 3
Sept. 17 (in-person)	stability	chapter 5	lecture 4
Sept. 22 (in-person)	behaviorism	none	lecture 5
Sept. 24 (in-person)	behaviorism	none	lecture 6
test on Sept. 29 (in-person)			
Oct. 1 (in-person)	personality and social interaction	chapter 15	lecture 8
Oct. 6 (in-person)	Machiavellianism and narcissism	none	lecture 9
Oct. 8 (in-person)	Machiavellianism and narcissism	none	lecture 10
Oct. 13 ***(online)***	antisocial personality disorder	none	lecture 11
Oct. 15 (in-person)	borderline personality disorder	none	lecture 12
Oct. 20 (in-person)	evolutionary perspectives	chapter 8	lecture 13
Oct. 22 (in-person)	evolutionary perspectives	none	lecture 14
test on Oct. 27 (in-person)			
Oct. 29 (in-person)	personality disorders	chapter 19	lecture 15
Nov. 3 (in-person)	perfectionism	none	lecture 16
Nov. 5 (in-person)	perfectionism	none	lecture 17
Nov. 17 (in-person)	dependency	none	lecture 18
Nov. 19 (in-person)	stress, coping, adjustment, and health	chapter 18	lecture 19
Nov. 24 (in-person)	somatic complaints	none	lecture 20
Nov. 26 (in-person)	career development	none	lecture 21
Dec. 1 (in-person)	the self	none	lecture 22
Dec. 3 (in-person)	the self	none	lecture 23

***Note*. Some dates and some topics may change.**

TESTS

All tests will be multiple-choice in format. You are required to write all tests on the scheduled dates. Tests will not be returned to students; however, you can view your tests during office hours. Cheating will not be tolerated; please see the note on the avoidance of academic offences near the end of this syllabus.

A general rule of thumb for what might be on a test is this: Anything presented in lectures or in readings may be on the test. The more it was discussed in class, or the more prominent it was in the readings, the more likely it is to appear on the test.

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the Dalhousie University common grade scale:

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

POLICY REGARDING RESCHEDULING

Students are entitled to a rescheduling of tests for legitimate reasons. Special test times may be granted on religious, medical, or compassionate grounds with supporting documentation provided *before the test date*. However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor **prior** to the test date, to arrange a timely makeup, and to provide acceptable documentation.

If you believe that you have a problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor 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. In general, retroactive requests for rescheduling of tests will not be considered.

PREPARING FOR AND WRITING MULTIPLE-CHOICE TESTS

1. Keep up with your reading. You will find it difficult to cram all the reading in the week (or the night!) before the test, and will likely remember the information better if you study it repeatedly over time.

2. Review your lecture notes each week between classes. This will help to consolidate what you learned and will give you an opportunity to notice points or ideas that you do not fully understand. In reviewing your notes while the material is still fresh in your mind, you might also notice errors made when note-taking.

University Policies and Statements

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre at 1321 Edward St or elders@dal.ca. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders." Additional internationalization information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html)

Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Fair Dealing Policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/about/leadership-governance/academic-integrity/faculty-resources/ouriginal-plagiarism-detection.html

Student Use of Course Materials

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.