

**Personality Psychology (PSY 2301 YN)**  
**Fall 2016 / Winter 2017**

**Instructor:** Dr. R. Klein  
**e-mail:** [rgklein@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:rgklein@lakeheadu.ca)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment or,  
• Tuesday and Thursday: 4pm – 5pm  
**Room:** #SN1013, School of Nursing Building, phone: 343-8535

Teaching Assistant: Victoria Pitura  
**e-mail:** [vpitura1@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:vpitura1@lakeheadu.ca)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Class Meetings:** Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wed/Friday: 10am – 11:30am  
Room: UC 1017 (across from Security)

### General Course Information

**Overview:** *Personality*, as defined by Funder (2004) refers to the patterns in individuals ways of behaving, thinking and feeling, and the psychological mechanisms that drive these patterns. This course is designed as an overview into the historical development of the field of personality psychology and will have a particular focus on current empirical research and major issues in the field.

This course is designed for the psychology undergraduate major with an interest in increasing the depth and breadth of knowledge concerning personality psychology. From various perspectives this course will address questions such as: What is personality? How can we investigate the nature and cause of personality? What are the implications and consequences of personality for issues relevant to mental disorders? This course is particularly relevant for students with interests in social, personality and cognitive psychology, career aspirations in counseling, clinical psychology, or graduate training in experimental psychology.

### Course objectives:

- develop a thorough understanding of the field of personality psychology and current theories
- develop a critical appreciation of the research methods used to test concepts and theories in personality psychology
- develop an understanding of personality models/concepts and their application to predicting and understanding human behavior and cognitions
- develop research skills and skills in critical analysis by writing of a science-based, APA-formatted paper

**Required Text:**

Larson, R. J. & Buss, D. M. *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge about Human Nature* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Toronto: McGraw Hill. (*\*earlier editions are acceptable and there is a copy of the textbook on reserve in the library*)

Connect Access is recommended but *not* required if you are purchasing an earlier edition of the textbook or if not purchasing the book from the bookstore.

**Evaluation:** Note: The exams are NOT cumulative.

- The lowest grade from Midterms 1-5 (worth 18% each) will be dropped. This is done automatically and students do not need to inform the professor.
- The Final Exam (18%) cannot be dropped and must be written
- Class assignments will be announced by the professor in class and are due at the beginning of the respective unit exams

Quizzes: 5 Quizzes (2% each)

**Exams**

Exam 1:	16% (lowest midterm grade will be dropped)
Exam 2:	16%
Exam 3:	16%
Exam 4:	16%
Exam 5:	16%
Final Exam:	16% (*must be written)

Assignments: (4 assignments resulting in 10% of final grade)

**Total Point:** 100%

**Bonus points:** You may earn up to a maximum of 3 additional bonus points to be added to your final mark in one of two ways, or in combination:

1. Participate in Psychology Department approved research studies that are posted throughout the academic term(s) on <http://lupsych.sona-systems.com>. An account will be created for you by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes. You must complete participation in studies by last day of classes.
2. Submit a synopsis of a recent journal article. This involves choosing a journal article published in 2014 onward that interests you, write a 500-word (2 pages double spaced) critical commentary about that article, and submit an ecopy of your synopsis and the article to the instructor by the last day of classes. Each submitted synopsis is worth 1.5 bonus points.

**Note:** Bonus assignment opportunities will be announced in-class. A maximum of 3% can be added to a final grade. I do not elevate students to another grade level after the course is completed. A drop exam and bonus assignments allow a student to elevate their grade themselves.

**Students with Disabilities:** Lakehead University provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities (i.e., those who have contacted the Learning Assistance center. For more information, please refer to the following website:  
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/accessibility>

**Accommodations:** Lakehead 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 think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit:<http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

**Learning Assistance:** Note that there are several avenues to seeking advice and tutoring throughout the course. It is your responsibility to seek the various resources available to you to help you get the assistance you need.

- (1) The Professor's office hours
- (2) Setting up a meeting with the Teaching Assistant
- (3) Visit the Student Success Center website and look for workshops and their on-campus location
  - a. : <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/skills-for-success>
  - b. Advice on managing stress
  - c. Advice on multiple choice test taking, and efficient studying
  - d. Tutoring assistance
- (4) Tutors (<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/tutoring>)

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100%	= A+
80 – 89%	= A
70 – 79%	= B
60 – 69%	= C
50 -- 59%	= D
<50%	= F

## Course Schedule

Note: Aside from the exams the topics covered may vary with how quickly/slowly we proceed through the material and therefore may be subject to change.

Date	Topic	Readings Assigned from Text
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Syllabus, Introduction, Brief History of Personality	Chapter 1
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> – 14	Personality Measurement	2
Sept. 16 – 21	Dispositions: The Fundamental Similarities amongst all of us	3
Sept. 23 - 28	Dispositional Approach	4
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Dispositions: Stability and Change	5
Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	EXAM 1 (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5)	
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Biological Approaches to Personality: Genetics, Physiology and Evolution	6
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Study Week	
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> – 21	Biological Approaches: Physiological	7
Oct. 26 – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Biological Approach: Evolution	8
Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Biological Approach	
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	EXAM 2 (chapters 6, 7 & 8)	
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Psychoanalytic: Historical	9
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Psychoanalytic: Contemporary	10
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Motivational Theory and Psychological Needs	11
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Motivational Theory and Psychological Needs	
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	EXAM 3 (chapters 9, 10 & 11) Exact date to be announced	
Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13	Behaviour and Learning Theory	
Jan. 18 – 20	Cognitive Theory and Cognitive Factors	12
Jan. 25 – 27	Self-Concept: Emotion, Self-Esteem, Self-Identity	13
Feb. 01 – 03	Self-Concept: Self Awareness and Self-Consciousness	14
Feb. 08	EXAM 4 (chapters 12, 13 & 14)	
Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Social Interaction and Happiness	15
Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sex, Gender	16
Feb. 22 / 24	Study week = No Class	
Mar. 01 / 03	Culture	17
Mar. 08 / 10		
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	EXAM 5 (chapters 15, 16 & 17)	
Mar. 17 – 22	Personality and Health	18
Mar. 24 – 29	Personality and Health	
April. 5 – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Personality Disorders	19
April	Final EXAM (chapters 18, & 19) Exact date to be announced	

\* Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> final day to register for class

\*\* Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> final day to drop class without academic penalty

## Specific Course Information

**Lectures and Textbook:** The lectures will be devoted to some of the topics dealt with in the textbook, and to clarifying and expanding upon difficult areas and providing different perspectives and examples. In preparing for the exams, you are responsible for all material covered in the lectures and all material covered in the assigned readings.

**Paper:** One of my goals in this course is to help you critically apply the material and concepts from psychology presented in class. The topic of the paper will be announced in class and ample time will be given to complete the assignments throughout the year. The assignments will be in APA style, double spaced, typed papers to be handed in at the requested time of the instructor. Late papers will receive a 20% deduction for every day late. Note that illnesses and tragedies prior to the completion date are not excusable as there is ample preparation time and the paper should not be left to be completed until the last minute.

**Exams:** Aside from the December midterm and the Final exam all other exams will take place during the regular class time. The midterms will last the entire class time (1.5 hours) and will include approximately 100 – 150 multiple-choice questions and possibly a short answer question. Students who miss the final exam and have a valid excuse (e.g., illness or a family tragedy) **with documentation** may ask in writing (e.g., e-mail) within **five days** to take a makeup of the final exam. The makeup exam will take place about one week after the final exam. Other than that, there will be no opportunity for makeup or additional work for midterms given that students are allowed to drop the lowest grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam lasts 3 hours and includes between 100 – 150 multiple-choice and possibly a short answer question.

**Re-Evaluation Rules:** If you feel unfairly treated on the mid-term exam please make a written request for a re-evaluation and give it to me within 7 days of the grades being posted or received. Upon re-evaluation, your mark **may go up, down, or stay the same**. Your exams will involve multiple-choice questions. If you feel that another answer than the "right" one should be counted, then write a convincing rationale and give it to me within 7 days of the grades being posted. If your rationale convinces me, your grade and where appropriate the grade of other students will be adjusted accordingly.

## Academic Integrity

Lakehead University values academic integrity. As a Lakehead student, you are responsible for knowing the rules and regulations concerning academic honesty, and understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Lakehead policy and the disciplinary procedures. For further information visit the following website:

<http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsIXacdishon.html>

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do you curve class grades on exams?

No, but I do review each exam question to ensure that an appropriate number of students answered a question correctly to ensure that it was fair.

Q. Even if the class does really bad on the exam will you curve?

No

Q. What if I get a 79% on my final grade will you bump me up to an 80%?

Because I allow students to drop an exam grade and sometimes have in-class bonus assignments I do not bump students up to a higher grade as they have plenty of opportunities to do so themselves.

Q. I left my paper at home or the printer didn't work or [insert excuse here] can I hand in my paper the next day?

No. It is not the fault of the printer if you are not prepared to hand in a paper. Insure your paper is submitted before the deadline to insure that it is received.

Q. I missed a class for whatever reason will the professor e-mail me the lecture notes?

No. However, I would be happy to review with you what happened in the class during my office hours.

Q. Why don't you just post the entire lecture notes earlier?

In the early years of university I believe it is important, in fact essential, to learn how to effectively copy notes from a lecturer. The notes taken solely from a slide are not sufficient to learning the entire material covered in a lecture. Relying on notes posted online is not optimal for study. If this is a problem or you feel you do not like this system please seek instruction from a different professor. Additionally, I also prefer to not have my lectures distributed freely since they are considered a part of intellectual property.