

**PERSONALITY**  
**Curtis Lecture Hall - F**  
**PSYC 2130 3.0 N**  
**Tuesday 8:30 – 11:30 am**  
**Winter, 2016**  
**Tentative Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Hyunji Kim  
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**Secretary:** Ms. Agnes Levstik, Rm. 281 BSB, (416) 736-5125

**Class Time and Location:** Tuesdays, 8:30 - 11:30 am, CLH-F

**Required Text:** Funder, D. C. (2015). *The Personality Puzzle (7th ed.)* New York: W. W. Norton and Co.  
(Available from the York bookstore)

**Prerequisite:** PSYC1010 6.0, with a minimum grade of C

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to introduce students to the major theories and findings in personality psychology. In this course, we will look at themes in personality research by exploring both classic and current research, and by critically evaluating the empirical evidence and research methods in personality psychology. Topics include the theories about the nature of personality, personality traits, biological and psychological causes of individual differences in personality, and consequences of individual differences for important life outcomes (e.g., well-being, health, work).

**Procedures:**

Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise lectures, films and discussions. Students are advised to read assigned materials before class, and to attend class. Lectures will not cover the exact material presented in the text, and a good portion of each exam will be based on research presented exclusively in either the lecture or the textbook. In addition, there will be six pop quizzes during class. You will not be evaluated based on your quiz score. You will receive participation marks for completing the quiz during class. Students are advised to check Moodle frequently for course announcements.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation is based on two Midterm tests (each worth 30%), and a Final Exam (35%), and Participation (5%). Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the text material, lectures, and films.

**Participation requires attendance in class.** There will be six random in-class pop quizzes throughout the semester. Please bring your own personal *electronic device* – including a tablet, smartphone, and laptop (any device with internet access) – to complete the quiz in class. If you do not have an electronic device, there will be an alternative to participating in class (e.g., printed copy of the quiz). You can miss one pop quiz to receive the full 5% for participation (completing 5-6 quizzes = 5% for participation, 4 quizzes = 4%, 3 quizzes = 3 %, 2 quizzes = 2 %, 1 quiz = 1 %, 0 quiz = 0 %). **Your actual score on the pop quiz will NOT count towards your final grade.**

If you have read through a chapter or viewed a lecture and you have outstanding questions, you should contact your TA for clarification. The best way to reach TA is via email. The TA will be also available for individual consultation during office hours.

### **Grading:**

The grading scheme for this course will conform to the 9-point grading system outlined in the York University Undergraduate Calendar. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. As multiple choice tests are scored by Computing Services, such requests will not be met (except under extraordinary circumstances). Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

### **Information on Academic Honesty, Student Conduct Standards, Religious Observance Accommodation and Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:**

It is also expected that students are familiar with the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards web page: ([http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm)).

Information on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty is provided in the Department of Psychology Supplemental Calendar and the York University Academic Integrity web site:

(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>)

### **Email Etiquette:**

When writing emails to professors and others within an academic setting, please remember that there are general norms for how to write them appropriately. Your email correspondence can leave a lasting impression at times, so it is important to keep in mind these tips for emailing etiquette:

- Check course materials, including the syllabus, to see if the information you need is there.
- Try to avoid overly informal language.
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Think carefully about your question first, and then explain it clearly and succinctly.
- Do your best to email well ahead of when you need an answer.
- *MUST put the course number* in the subject line (PSY2130N) for all e-mail communications
- *Choose an appropriate greeting* (e.g., “Hello Dr. Kim”, “Dear Dr. Kim”)
- See the Career Centre’s “12 Tips for Writing Effective Emails” pdf that will be posted on Moodle in January.

### **Important Information about Missing an Exam:**

There will be no make-up exams, except under extraordinary circumstances. **If you miss an exam with no legitimate excuse, you will receive a grade of zero.** If you have a legitimate reason (e.g., death in the family, severe illness, etc.) for being excused from an exam, and have documentation to verify your absence (please see below), you may take a make-up exam in lieu of the missed exam. Please note that I am extremely strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination – nonetheless, you should contact me regardless of your reason if you have or will miss an examination. You must contact me **at least one day in advance of the exam** and provide documentation in order to be permitted to take a make-up exam. In the case of an emergency, contact me, cc'ed to your course TA, as soon as possible. In this email, please (a) outline the reason for your absence, and (b) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason.

Please note that there will be **one set date for the make-up examination**. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements might not be possible until the end of term – so please make every effort to make this date. The nature of the makeup exam will be at my discretion; if Midterm 1 is missed, you might be asked to write a joint Midterm1/Midterm2 examination worth 60% of your final grade (although this is not the norm). Note also that deferred final exams are often held on a single common date determined by the Department of Psychology. No individualized testing is available unless arranged formally through one of the offices at the University (e.g., Counselling and Disability Services; <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/learningdisabilities/exams.html>).

### **Documentation when Missing an Exam:**

If you produce a valid medical document, signed by a physician, stating that you were medically unable to take the exam, you will be able to take a makeup exam. If you miss an exam for non-medical reasons, you still must produce supporting documentation (e.g., death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel, etc.). Missing an exam for a vacation, etc., is not an acceptable reason. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN MUST BE WILLING TO STATE THAT YOU WERE MEDICALLY UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM, AND YOU MUST PRODUCE THE DOCUMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MISSED EXAM AND TELEPHONE THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE EXAM IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM.** If you are ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, I highly recommend that you consider dropping the course.

Once you have contacted Dr. Kim and your TA, you will need to complete the Faculty of Health Missed Test Document for missed midterm exams (will be available at the course website) or the Final Exam Deferred Standing Agreement Form (<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>) for missed final exams. These should be brought to Dr. Hyunji Kim's mailbox (located on the first floor of the BSB; if the mail room is closed try the undergraduate office) or faxed to the psychology department (with Attention Dr. Hyunji Kim) at 416-736-5814. You will need to receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from me and/or your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days if you have not heard back.

## Lecture Outline

January 5	Introduction to Personality Psychology and Research Methods	Chapter 1 & 2
January 12	Personality Assessment I: How Can Scientists Measure Personality?	Chapter 2 & 5
January 19	Personality Assessment II: Assessment Criteria; Critical Issues in Assessment	Chapter 5
January 26	Trait Approach to Personality; Personality Disorders	Chapter 6 & 17
February 2	<b>Midterm Exam I</b>	
February 9	The Self and the Stability of Personality	Chapter 7
February 16	<b>Reading Week</b> (No class)	
February 23	Person and Situations: How Do I Behave in Different Situations?	Chapter 4 & 14
Mar 1	Biological Approach to Personality: Personality and Genetics	Chapter 8 & 9
Mar 8	<b>Midterm Exam II</b>	
Mar 15	Psychoanalytic Approach to Personality; Personality and Life Outcomes	Chapter 11 & 17
Mar 22	Personality and Culture	Chapter 13 & 15
Mar 29	Motivations: Human Needs and Values	Chapter 15 & 16
April 6 - 20	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**\*\*\*Important Date:**

**Mar 4** - Last date to drop the course without receiving a grade