

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 6510 3.0 Section A: PERSONALITY THEORY
Wednesdays 11:30am in BSB 203
Winter/2025**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Maxwell Barranti
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Reaction Papers	Weekly	30%
Class Participation	Weekly	10%
Class Feedback	Weekly	20%
Presentation	Assigned Week 1	20%
Discussion Facilitation	Assigned Week 1	20%
Total		100%

Description of course components

Reaction Papers

Each week for which you are not facilitating discussion you will submit a 1-page, single spaced reaction paper via Turnitin on eClass. These are due by 11:30am (i.e., before class). A high-quality reaction paper will be well thought out, attempt to integrate any common or competing themes across the articles, and/or make connections to other topics from this course and everyday life. Three of the weeks you can skip a reaction paper – the week you present, the week you are the devils advocate, and a week of your choosing. In total 8 reactions papers are due over the term.

Class Participation

Each week please come to class ready to discuss all the assigned readings.

Class Feedback

Following each presentation (other than your own), you must send me some constructive feedback for the speaker. This feedback will involve completing the feedback form selected by the presenter. When presenters have no preference about the feedback form, then feedback should be no more than one page single spaced. I will collect and anonymize feedback then share it with the presenter. This anonymous feedback should be constructive. We are here to help each other out by sharing what worked well so that we can keep doing it, and by sharing what we can be improving upon. High-quality feedback focuses on both points of strength and improvement. As well as providing suggestions on how to make those improvements going forward.

Presentation

Each student will contribute a 45-minute lecture on a topic related to personality psychology. Your goal should be to provide your classmates with an up-to-date characterization regarding research in a particular area. Potential topics include: Person-Situation Interaction, Personality Structure (two-factor, five-factor, six-factor models, etc.), Self-Esteem versus Self-Enhancement, Cohort Differences in Narcissism, Intelligence versus Practical Intelligence versus Emotional Intelligence, Empathy, Narrative Approaches to the Self, and Cultural Differences. Personality is everywhere, so suggest a topic subject to approval by the instructor and have fun with it. From a pedagogical standpoint, it would be most advantageous to choose a topic that you are interested in but know little about. If you are unhappy with your performance on the presentation, you are welcome to make a second presentation on a different topic in an effort to improve your grade.

Discussion Facilitation

During the semester you will organize and guide the discussion for your assigned week(s). Depending on the number of people in the course, you may be paired with another student and/or lead multiple discussions. You will also sign up for one “devil’s advocate” position for one week. Your goal will be to drive discussion on potential challenges to the assigned readings. Your goal isn’t to be mean – think healthy skeptical. For example, what phenomenon do these theories struggle to explain?

Policy Regarding Assignments

No late presentation feedback will be accepted. Late reactions papers will receive a penalty of 30% per day (including weekends). Petitions for extensions without penalty will only be considered when accompanied a written explanation of the request.

Resources

The Centre for Academic Writing: <http://www.arts.yorku.ca/caw/index.html>

Academic integrity and plagiarism: http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Student Presentation	Assignment
Jan 8 th	Discussion of Class Structure		
Jan 15 th	Modern Personality Theories	Professor Led	Reaction Paper #1 Due @ 11:30am
Jan 22 nd	Sick Day		
Jan 29 th	Cybernetic Big Five	Student Lead: Stephen Devil's Advocate: Sandra	Reaction Paper #2 Due @ 11:30am
Feb 5 th	Emotion Regulation	Student Lead: Courtney Devil's Advocate: Sophie	Reaction Paper #3 Feedback #1 Due @ 11:30am
Feb 12 th	Personality & Voting Behavior	Student Lead: Erik Devil's Advocate: Hannah	Reaction Paper #4 Feedback #2 Due @ 11:30am
		Reading Week	
Feb 26 th	Personality Change	Professor Led	Reaction Paper #5 Feedback #3 Due @ 11:30am
Mar 5 th	Borderline	Professor Led Devil's Advocate: Prabhdeep	Reaction Paper #6 Due @ 11:30am
Mar 12 th	Neo-Freudian Theories	Student Lead: Prabhdeep Devil's Advocate: Mina	Reaction Paper #7 Due @ 11:30am
Mar 19 th	Personality Judgements	Student Lead: Hannah Devil's Advocate: Erik	Reaction Paper #8 Feedback #4 Due @ 11:30am
Mar 26 th	Conscientiousness vs Trait Self-Control	Student Lead: Sophie Devil's Advocate: Stephen	Reaction Paper #9 Feedback #5 Due @ 11:30am
Apr 2 nd	Personality Across the Globe	Student Lead: Mina Devil's Advocate: Courtney	Reaction Paper #10 Feedback #6 Due @ 11:30am
Apr 9 th			Feedback #7 Due @ 11:30am