

# Psychology 2B3: Theories of Personality

Course Outline, Sept. - Dec. 2016

Time: **Tues., Thurs., Fri. 2:30 - 3:20 pm**  
 Room: **MDCL-1305**

Web site: **<http://intropsych.mcmaster.ca/psych2b3>**  
 Also available on Avenue2 Learn

Instructor: **Dick Day**

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Office hours: As posted on the website

## Course Objectives

This course discusses theories of personality from Freud to the present. At the end of the course, you will be familiar with the common theoretical approaches to personality (type, trait, psychodynamic, humanistic, cognitive, learning, evolutionary), and will understand the concepts involved in one or more specific theories from most of these approaches and will appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of each.

In addition to the specifics of several theories, I hope that you will have a clearer understanding of the nature and purpose of theories in science, and an appreciation for the interesting relationship between theory and 'reality'.

## Course Materials:

**Required Text:** Funder, David C. *The Personality Puzzle, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.* W.W. Norton.  
**Recommended Text:** Day, R.B. Psych 2B3 Handbook.

## Course Outline:

The table below shows the topics we will be covering, and the (approximate) dates when each topic will be discussed.

Week:	Topic	Funder Readings
Sept. 5 Sept. 12	Introduction to Personality	Chapts. 1, 2
Sept. 12 Sept. 19	The Psychodynamic Approach: Freud and Psychoanalysis	Chapts. 10,11 (pp. 393-396; 398-416)
Sept. 26 Oct. 3	The Psychodynamic Approach II: Carl Jung's Analytic Psychology	Chapt. 11, (pp. 397-398)
Oct. 10	Fall Break Week	
Oct. 17 * Oct. 24	The Humanists: Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers	Chapt. 12
Oct. 31 Nov. 7	The Cognitive/Behavioral Approach: Bandura and Mischel	Chapt. 14 (pp. ), 16
Nov. 7 Nov. 14	The Trait Approach: Eysenck and Multi-Factor Theories	Chapt. 4, 6, 7
* Nov. 21 Nov. 29 Dec. 5	Biological Bases of Personality	Chapt. 8, 9, Epilogue
	Classes end Wednesday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	
December Examination Period	Final Examination	

**Evaluation:**

There will be two non-cumulative in-class tests, worth 30% each, and a cumulative final exam worth 40%.

Each in-class test will consist of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions. You will have approximately the full class period to complete each test.

The final exam will consist of approximately 80 multiple-choice questions. The final exam will cover all the lecture material in the course. You will have two hours for this test, which will take place during the December examination period. The finalized dates for the in-class tests are as follows (and are marked on the course outline with an asterisk next to the week in which they will take place).

**In-class Test #1:** Tuesday, October 25

**In-class Test #2:** Tuesday, November 22

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THIS INFORMATION.**

**Missed Work:** If you miss one of the in-class tests for documented medical or compassionate reasons, you should complete a Missed Work form in the office of the Associate Dean (Studies) of your Faculty. Once your Associate Dean has accepted your reason for absence, the remaining in-class test and the final exam will be reweighted (40%, 60%, respectively) to cover the missed in-class test. **Discretionary notes will generally not be accommodated.** Note also that the online student absence form (MSAF) can only be used once per term, and only for assignments worth less than 25%. That means that **an MSAF will not excuse you from either of the midterm tests in this course.**

**Final Grade Calculation and Adjustment:** The final mark in Psychology 2B3 will be computed by applying the following formula to the percentage scores on Test1, Test2, and the Final Exam:

$$(\text{Test1}\% \times .30) - (\text{Test2}\% \times .30) - (\text{Exam}\% \times .40) = \text{Final Course Mark}$$

Note that Test1%, Test2%, and Exam% values in the above equation are rounded numbers, while the value within each pair of parentheses is **NOT** rounded before being summed to calculate the Final Course percentage. So a Test1% score of 72.5% is rounded to 73% before being multiplied by .30. The resulting value (73 x .30 = 21.9) is **NOT** rounded before being added to the Test 2 and Exam scores to calculate the Final Course Percentage (FCP). The calculated FCP **IS** rounded, so a FCP of 69.5% would be recorded as 70%, equivalent to a letter grade of "B-" in the course.

Apart from excused absences from an in-class test, every student will be assessed using the weighting formula shown above - with one exception:

In assigning final letter grades for the course I look at the pattern of performance over the two in-class tests and the final exam. If the overall average, as calculated by the formula above, is on the borderline of the next higher letter grade (e.g. 49%, 66%, or 84%) and if the marks on both the final exam and one in-class test are at the next higher level (e.g., D-, C+, A), then I will assign the next higher letter grade.

**Apart from this one final adjustment, final course grades in Psych 2B3 are not changed unless they have been calculated incorrectly. Consequently, I do not respond to personal, phone, or email requests to reconsider correctly calculated final letter grades.**

Note that although midterm and exam marks, and final course averages are posted on Avenue

as well as on the intropsych Grades Lookup, **ONLY THE NUMERICAL POSTINGS ON THE GRADES LOOKUP REFLECT THE CORRECT CALCULATION OF YOUR MARKS AND FINAL AVERAGE.** The letter grades posted on Avenue and the Grades Lookup will be identical, and equally correct.

Some online applications provided for the use of students in this course reside on a server (intropsych.mcmaster.ca) that may not always be accessible. These applications include the **Grades Lookup**, and the **Online Sample Quiz**. While there is only a small chance that this server will fail, you should not assume that these applications will be available when you want to use them. Use of these applications is not required or necessary for excellent performance in this course.

**The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.**

**Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of a academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at

[http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac\\_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. **Copying or using unauthorized aids on tests and examinations.**
2. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
3. Improper collaboration in group work.