

**Psychology 305A-003: Personality Psychology**  
**University of British Columbia, Winter Term II, 2015**  
**T/TH 11-12:30pm, Buchanan A101**

**I. Instructor**



Katherine Rogers, MA

**Office:** Kenny 3526 (2136 West Mall)

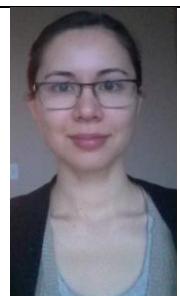
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm or by appointment.

**Email:** [rogerskh@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:rogerskh@psych.ubc.ca)

*\*Please include "Psyc 305" in subject line to insure email will not be lost and include your full name and student number. Also, please check the syllabus to see if your question can be answered before emailing me.*

**About Kate** (<25 words): PhD candidate in Social/Personality Psychology; fascinated by first impressions; American; likes chocolate, curry, lifting heavy things, whiskey, bad jokes; dislikes scary movies, olives.

**II. Teaching Assistants**

		
<b>Stephanie Chu</b>	<b>Anita Hibbert</b>	
<b>Office</b>	Kenny 3508	Kenny 1604
<b>Office Hours</b>	Thursdays 9:30-10:30 or by appt.	Thursdays 9:30-10:30 or by appt.
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:swmchu@psych.ubc.ca">swmchu@psych.ubc.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:anita.hibbert@psych.ubc.ca">anita.hibbert@psych.ubc.ca</a>
<b>About</b>	MA Candidate in Cognitive Science; spend most of my time on gambling research, food network and crafting; tea and sushi lover; dislikes pickles.	PhD student in clinical psychology; interested in emotions, emotion dysregulation, & psychophysiology; likes sleeping in, live music & survival games; dislikes unreasonably slow walkers.
<b>Students</b>	Ahn - Lin	Liu - Zhao

**III. Course Description**

Personality refers to the patterns in individual's ways of behaving, thinking, and feeling, and the psychological mechanisms that drive these patterns. This course will provide students with a broad introduction to theory and research in the scientific study of personality psychology. This course is organized around six domains of personality research: dispositional, biological, intrapsychic, cognitive, socio-cultural and adjustment. This course will examine the theories, methods, and research within the

**Prerequisites:** This course requires basic knowledge of psychological concepts and research methods. Although this course requires this knowledge, class time will not be spent in reviewing required knowledge. The prerequisites for this course are either: (a) Psychology 100, (b) Psychology 101 and 102, or (c) 6 credits of 200-level psychology courses (not including Psychology 205 or 263). First year students are not eligible to take this course.

**IV. Course Tools**

**Textbook:** Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D.M. (2013). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0078035357. **Note:** It is not recommended that you use older editions of the textbook, as the material may not be the same across editions.

**Course website:** Information about the course and course materials, including the syllabus, lecture slides, and details for the written assignment will be posted on: [www.connect.ubc.ca](http://www.connect.ubc.ca)

**Journal Articles:**

Funder, D. C. (2012). Accurate Personality Judgment. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 21(3), 177–182. doi:10.1177/0963721412445309.

McAdams, D. P., & McLean, K. C. (2013). Narrative identity. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 22(3), 233-238. doi:10.1177/0963721413475622.

Paulhus, D.L. (2014). Toward a Taxonomy of Dark Personalities. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 23(6), 421-426. doi:10.1177/0963721414549187.

**V. Course Evaluation**

Students will complete **3 exams** (30% each) and **1 paper** (10%) for a total of 100%.

**Exams:** All three exams are weighted equally, and therefore will each be similar length and scope. **The exams are non-cumulative.** Any material covered in lecture, the textbook or assigned readings may appear on the exam. Please note that material covered verbally in lecture but not listed in lecture slides is examinable. The exams will include multiple choice questions and short answer questions. One week before the exam I will post sample questions to help you prepare for the exam.

All exams will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long. Exams 1 and 2 will be held during class time while the final will be schedule by the university during the final exam period. Because the date and time of the final exam is not announced by UBC Student Services until mid-semester, **you must not make travel arrangements until you know the date of the final exam.** You will not be excused from the final because of pre-existing travel arrangements.

**Paper:** Students will be required to write one short paper (1 page) on a selected journal article. The research presented in textbooks is often seen at a delay (years after it was initially conducted) and in refined form, such that the study methods and relevant message are distilled down to a simplified summary. The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to read a recently published article from a top psychology journal in its original form (i.e., not in a secondary source, like a textbook). The assignment will also require you to thoughtfully interact with the article to consider the research question, methods, key findings, and course relevance. More details regarding the paper will be posted on the course website. **The paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 2nd.**

**Extra credit:** You can earn up to 3% extra towards your grade by completing three hours of HSP participation or by completing a library writing project. For complete details, see “Subject Pool Information for Participants” on the Department’s website: <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/>. Please register in this online system as soon as possible. This will be the only extra credit offered in the course and it will not be rounded up.

**VI. Course Grading**

Your final grade will consist of the items mentioned in section V.

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity in courses with multiple sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental policy on grade distributions. According to this policy, 300-level courses are required to obtain an average grade between 66% and 70% and a standard deviation of 13. Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the instructors or department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student’s academic record. You will receive both a letter grade and a percent for this course.

A+	90-100%	B+	76-79%	C+	64-67%	D	50-54%
A	85-89%	B	72-75%	C	60-63%	F	0-49%
A-	80-84%	B-	68-71%	C-	55-59%		

## **VII. Course Policies**

**Participation:** I strongly encourage and appreciate student participation. I will make every effort to create a classroom environment in which students feel comfortable discussing their ideas. In order to encourage and facilitate participation, I ask that all students support their classmates' efforts to contribute to class discussion.

**Attendance and Powerpoint Slides:** Attendance is expected for every class. If you are unable to attend a class session, it is strongly suggested that you obtain notes on the material from a classmate. Lecture slides will be posted AFTER the class session on the course website ([www.connect.ubc.ca](http://www.connect.ubc.ca)). All lecture slides will be numbered so you will be able to take notes by slide number during lecture. The lecture slides are provided to give you a framework for the course and they are not a substitute for attending lectures. Once again, please note that material covered verbally in lecture but not listed on the lecture slides is examinable. It is thus recommended that you attend every class. Instructional materials are only for learning in this course and must not be distributed or used for any other reason.

**Syllabus changes:** There may be minor changes to the syllabus during the term. You will be notified of these changes ASAP and no changes will be instituted that dramatically affect your ability to properly prepare for an examination (e.g., reading an extra chapter during the week of the midterm).

**Textbook:** The textbook (L&B) is used to facilitate your understanding of the course content by reinforcing topics discussed in class and it also covers information not discussed in lectures. It is strongly encouraged that you read the text before attending class.

**Journal Articles:** Throughout the semester you will be reading a number of different journal articles. These articles are included to help broaden your understanding of the field by exposing you to recent research and trends within the discipline. I will provide the citations for these articles, but it is up to you to find the articles and read them on the appropriate dates. If you are not familiar with how to find research articles, please meet with your TA or the instructor. I recommend using the UBC library website and navigating to the psycINFO database.

**Email:** Emails should be written in a professional manner and include your name and student ID number. I will strive to respond to emails within 48 hours during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 9-5). Emails regarding course content should include no more than one question and should also clearly state your current understanding of the topic, which I will then confirm or correct. If you have more than a single question, you should visit office hours. Emails that do not follow this format may not be answered. I will NOT accept emails through Connect so please only use the email address listed in the syllabus (p.1). **Emails may not be answered the day before an exam so please plan accordingly.**

**Taking Exams:** A student will not be allowed to write an exam, if 1) s/he arrives 30 minutes late to an exam or 2) another student has already completed and submitted his/her exam, whichever occurs first. Further, once an exam begins students will not be allowed to leave until their exam has been submitted (e.g., no bathroom breaks) unless there is a documented medical condition. Medical documentation should be submitted to the instructor at least 24 hours before the exam. If you choose to leave the exam early, you must submit your exam and will not be allowed to return to the room. When time is called at the end of the exam, you must immediately stop working and submit your exam and scantron form. You will not be allowed more time for any reason, including (but not limited to): putting your name or ID on the exam or filling in or changing an answer. You must also remain completely silent until every exam has been collected. Failure to stop working when time is called or to stay silent until all exams have been collected will result in a '0' on the exam.

**Scantrons:** Exams will be completed using Scantron forms that require you to use a #2 pencil. If you do not use a #2 pencil or do not complete a required part of the Scantron form it will not be readable by the machine. Instructors and teaching assistants will not correct Scantron forms that are filled out incorrectly, and if a form is filled out incorrectly, the machine may give no credit for the answers. If you are unsure of how to fill out a scantron form, please ask your TA or the instructor before the first exam.

**Missed Exams:** Your presence at exams is required and exams will only be given on the published dates. Note that exams will not be rescheduled for students to accommodate academic workload, employment-related commitments, travel or oversleeping. Please do not request an alternative exam date for these reasons.

In the event that you are unable to write an exam because of conflict with a religious obligation, please notify the instructor **within the first two weeks of the course**. Failure to do so will prevent you from receiving an excuse for this reason.

If you miss an exam for a medical reason and are a student from the Faculty of Arts, you **must meet with an Arts Advisor within 24 hours of missing the exam** (unless medically impossible) to provide rationale. You may find information about Arts Advising here:

<<http://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/contact-us/>>. You will be asked to provide documentation for your absence (e.g., a doctor's note). The Arts Advisor may decide to request accommodation for your absence from the exam, the granting of which will be at the sole discretion of the instructor. If you are granted an accommodation through the Faculty of Arts, **you must take the makeup exam within one week of the original exam date**. The TA will determine the exact date of the makeup exam. Note that the content and/or format of the makeup exam may differ from the exam that was administered in class. Failure to follow the above procedure will result in a "0" for the missed exam.

If you are not an Arts student, you must contact Academic Advising through your Faculty and provide them with notification and justification of your absence within the same timeframe, 24 hours after the missed exam. Your accommodation process will follow the same procedure as students from the Faculty of Arts. If your Faculty does not have an accommodation process, you may contact the instructor only after contacting your Faculty and you must provide documentation that you have attempted to contact your Faculty.

Requests for changes to this exam policy will not be honoured.

**Reviewing Exams:** You are strongly encouraged to review your exam with the TA during office hours. **Requests for adjustment of a grade must be made within two weeks following the release of exam marks.** Most concerns or requests for adjustments can be settled directly with your TA. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved with your TA, please email the instructor to discuss the issue further. Please note that your TA will be the only person that has access to your exams, so you must request that she forward your exam to the instructor if you need to discuss a specific exam issue.

**Paper:** The paper will be **due at the beginning of class on April 2nd**. If you must miss class or must arrive late, please email your TA in advance to make special arrangements to turn in your assignment early. You must print out and bring in a hard copy of the paper; digital copies via email will not be accepted. Papers turned in after the start of class on April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be penalized 10% for each day late. No papers will be accepted after Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. More details regarding the paper can be found on the course website.

**Grade Changes:** Very rarely, the instructor may choose to "bump" a student's grade to the next higher letter grade based on merit alone. For example, if you have shown marked improvement (+10%) in the course and your final grade is a 67.3%, the instructor may choose to change your grade to a 68% so that you receive a B-. These grade changes are at the sole discretion of the instructor and will not be made upon request from a student. **Emails requesting grade changes will not be answered.**

**Access and Diversity:** UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students including those with documented physical disabilities or learning disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your learning or performance on tests or exams please visit the following website:

<http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/drc.cfm/> and take the necessary steps to ensure your success at UBC.

**Laptop Use:** The use of a laptop in class is an effective means by which to take notes and record comments related to course content. However, some students use a laptop in class to “surf” the internet, engage in e-mail correspondence, and/or work on material associated with other courses. These activities can distract those who sit in adjacent seats and interfere with their efforts to learn. For this reason, all students who intend to use a laptop in class for activities unrelated to the course are asked to sit in the back of the classroom.

**Academic misconduct:** Cheating and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Psychology Department has taken steps to alleviate them. The Psychology Department employs software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students’ responses. This software will be used to analyze students’ responses to the multiple-choice questions on the exams in this course. Evidence of academic misconduct may result in a “0” credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student’s transcript. For further information on student conduct and discipline, consult Policies and Regulations in the UBC Calendar (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm>) and the University Counsel’s policy on student discipline (<http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/discipline/>).

Please note that during exams invigilators may ask students to move or alter students’ seating arrangements without explanation. An invigilator may ask you to move due to the possible misconduct of a classmate in an adjacent seat.

## VIII. Useful Resources

### Helpful student information

UBC Access & Diversity	<a href="http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/index.cfm">http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/index.cfm</a>
Time Management Tips	<a href="http://www.arc.sbc.edu/time.html">http://www.arc.sbc.edu/time.html</a>
Tips to help overcome test anxiety	<a href="http://www.swccd.edu/~asc/lrnglinks/test_anxiety.html">http://www.swccd.edu/~asc/lrnglinks/test_anxiety.html</a>

### UBC Psych student organizations

Psi Chi (International Honors Society)	<a href="http://psichi.psych.ubc.ca/">http://psichi.psych.ubc.ca/</a>
Psychology Students’ Association	<a href="http://psa.psych.ubc.ca/">http://psa.psych.ubc.ca/</a>
Undergraduate Research Journal	<a href="http://ubcujb.psych.ubc.ca/">http://ubcujb.psych.ubc.ca/</a>
Psyched! newsletter	<a href="http://psa.psych.ubc.ca/newsletter">http://psa.psych.ubc.ca/newsletter</a>

### Podcasts

General Psychology Topics	<a href="http://www.thepsychfiles.com/">http://www.thepsychfiles.com/</a>
Tips to help overcome procrastination	<a href="http://iprocrastinate.libsyn.com/">http://iprocrastinate.libsyn.com/</a>

### Learn more about your personality

<a href="http://www.utpsych.org/">http://www.utpsych.org/</a>
<a href="http://www.yourpersonality.net/">http://www.yourpersonality.net/</a>
<a href="http://psych.wfu.edu/woodlab/celebrity/celebritytest.pl">http://psych.wfu.edu/woodlab/celebrity/celebritytest.pl</a>
<a href="http://www.outofservice.com/">http://www.outofservice.com/</a>

## Schedule of Course Topics

Date	Topic	Readings
1	1/6	Welcome!
2	1/8	Introduction & Overview
3	1/13	Research Methods
4	1/15	Traits & Trait Taxonomies

5	1/20	Measurement of Traits	L&B Ch. 4; Carson Obituary
6	1/22	<b>Special Topic:</b> Dark Side of Personality	Paulhus (2014)
7	1/27	Dispositions over time	L&B Ch. 5
8	1/29	Dispositions over time cont'd	" "
9	2/3	Genetics & Physiology	L&B Ch. 6
10	2/5	**Exam 1**	<b>Lectures/Readings 1-9</b>
11	2/10	Evolutionary Perspectives	L&B Ch. 8
12	2/12	Psychoanalytic Approaches	L&B Ch. 9
<b>2/17-19</b>		<b>Reading Week!</b>	
13	2/24	Psychoanalytic Approaches cont'd	L&B Ch. 10
14	2/26	<b>Special Topic:</b> Dreams & Dreaming Guest Lecture: Dr. David King	NA
15	3/3	Motives, Needs, Goals	L&B Ch. 11
16	3/5	<b>Special Topic:</b> Narrative Approach	McAdams & McLean (2013)
17	3/10	Emotion & Personality	L&B Ch. 13
18	3/12	**Exam 2**	<b>Lectures/Readings 11-13, 15-17</b>
19	3/17	Approaches to the Self	L&B Ch. 14
20	3/19	Personality & Social Interaction	L&B Ch. 15
21	3/24	<b>Special Topic:</b> Forming Impressions	Funder (2012)
22	3/26	Sex & Gender <b>Guest Lecture: Dr. Diana Lim</b>	L&B Ch. 16
23	3/31	Culture & Personality	L&B Ch. 17
24	4/2	Stress, Coping, Adjustment & Health <b>**Paper Assignment Due**</b>	L&B Ch. 18
25	4/7	Disorders of Personality	L&B Ch. 19
26	4/9	<b>Special Topic:</b> Positive Psychology & Wrap Up	<b>L&amp;B Ch. 20</b>
<b>4/14</b>		<b>**Exam 3** 8:30am Wood 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Lectures/Readings 19-26</b>