

PSYC 3600 A : PERSONALITY (HONOURS SEMINAR)

Instructor	Marina Milyavskaya
Term	Fall 2024/Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In-Person
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Office Hours	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTORS STATEMENT

This seminar is designed to prepare students to complete an honours thesis in psychology, using a personality psychology context. We will address methodological advances and current controversies in personality psychology research and develop research questions that we will address by collecting data and testing hypotheses. Roughly one-half of the course will be devoted to reviewing and discussing current theories and issues in personality psychology. The other half will be devoted to the pragmatics of designing and conducting research: Students will conduct an empirical study on a topic of their choice in small groups. Students will gain experience in: finding and evaluating peer-reviewed research literature; formulating hypotheses and designing studies to test them; analyzing results using statistical procedures and software; orally presenting the work for feedback; and writing using APA style. During the course of these tasks, students will become familiar with conceptual frameworks and research issues in personality psychology. Requirements include: preparation for, and attendance and participation in, classes and labs; in class and take-home assignments; group work; group oral presentations; group ethics proposal; individually written research proposal; and individually written final research report. Although the content focus of this course is personality psychology, skills learned should facilitate honours thesis completion in other content areas of psychology (e.g., social, health, developmental).

EVALUATION

There are no exams or tests, but students will prepare oral presentations (individually and/or in groups) and submit several written assignments. Class participation contributes significantly to the grade.

TEXT

There is no textbook, but each week students will read selected journal articles and chapters, which will be posted on Brightspace