

Health Sciences 3820b
Personal Constructions of Health
School of Health Studies, Western University

January to April 2015

1. Course Information

This course takes a personal construct approach to understanding persons as meaning makers. It examines the principle of constructive alternativism, the nature of personality, the construal of illness, the construal of change, and the use of the repertory grid procedure. There are two tests scheduled during class time and a final exam scheduled during the examination period. The tests and exam are short-essay format.

Classes – 2 hours

Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30, HSB 240

There are no labs.

Prerequisite Checking

You should consult the Western Academic Calendar (www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca) for the requisites of this course. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Christopher Lee, PhD

email: cjlee@uwo.ca

Office: Room 217, Labatt Health Sciences Building

Office Hours: TBA

3. Course Materials

- a. Textbook — Butt, T. & Burr, V. (2004). *Invitation to Personal Construct Psychology* (second edition). London: Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-86156-387-3
- b. Cases — A series of cases are posted in OWL to supplement the material in textbook.

4. Evaluation

Your grade in this course is based on two tests and a final exam. Each is worth one third of your final grade. The first test is held in class on February 2, 2015. The second test is held in class on March 9, 2015. The final exam will be scheduled during the official examination period.

If you are unable to write a test at the scheduled time as a result of medical illness or non-medical reasons, you must consult an academic counsellor to obtain academic accommodation. Once academic accommodation is obtained, the percentage associated with the missed test will be evenly distributed between the other test and the final exam. For example, if you miss the first test because of illness, the second test would be worth 50 percent and the final exam would be worth 50 percent.

If you miss the final exam due to medical illness or non-medical reasons, you must consult an academic counsellor to obtain academic accommodation to write a make-up exam.

5. Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.

6. English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades

The University policy on English proficiency is available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>.

7. Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration — Health Studies students should contact the School of Health Studies main office (222 HSB).

8. Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

9. Support Services

Support services are offered on campus through the Student Development Centre, Student Health Services, the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of the Ombudsperson.

10. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 5	Course Overview
2	Jan 12	Introduction (pages 1 to 9)
3	Jan 19	Constructive Alternativism (pages 11 to 38)
4	Jan 26	Constructive Alternativism (pages 11 to 38)
5	Feb 2	Test 1
6	Feb 9	The Nature of Personality (pages 39 to 68)
	Feb 16	No Class — Reading Week
7	Feb 23	Reconstruing Illness (pages 69 to 102)
8	Mar 2	Reconstruing Illness (pages 69 to 102)
9	Mar 9	Test 2
10	Mar 16	Reconstruing Change (pages 103 to 122, 133 to 142)
11	Mar 23	Repertory Grid (pages 123 to 132)
12	Mar 30	Repertory Grid (pages 123 to 132)
13	Apr 6	Office Hours — No Class