

Course Syllabus for PSYB30 (Winter 2008)

"Personality Psychology"

Mondays, 19:00-22:00 in Academic Resource Centre 223

Instructor: Steve Livingston	Instructor's Office Location: Science Wing Room 569-A
Instructor's E-mail Address: slivingston@utsc.utoronto.ca	Instructor's Office Hours: Wednesdays 13:00-15:00 (or by arranged appointment with course instructor)
	Instructor's Office Phone: 416-208-2695
Teaching Associates: Stephanie Bass & Alexa Tullett	TA Office Location: TBA
Course E-mail Address: psyb30@utsc.utoronto.ca	TA Office Hours: TBA
	TA Contact Phone: TBA

Required Text

Flett, G. L. (2007). *Personality theory & research: An international perspective*. Mississauga: John Wiley & Sons Canada. [ISBN-13: 978-0-470-83550-0]

Note: If you choose to use another text for this course, it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the material from the weekly assigned readings in the Flett text. For obvious reasons, I cannot and will not provide lists of corresponding readings for other texts. If you cannot purchase the text due to financial hardship, please note that at least one copy of the course textbook will be placed on closed reserve at the UTSC library.

Course Overview

This course will serve as a survey-level introduction to the field of personality psychology. We will meet the great historical and modern thinkers in the field, compare various theories of personality development and change, study the complex interactions between person and situation, and consider the applied utility of personality psychology for the real world. You will have the opportunity to explore how personality psychology is relevant and beneficial to your own life and the lives of others. Ideally, you will emerge from this course with a deeper understanding of your selfhood.

Instructor's Goals for the Course

Comprehension and retention of theory and research is important, but I am not interested in simply training you to parrot back a textbook's worth of names, dates, facts, and figures. Nor am I interested in turning each and every one of you into professional personality psychologists. (Although that would admittedly be pretty cool!!)

I want instead to foster knowledge of the history and methods of personality psychology, and of the major contributions personality psychologists have made to our understanding of the human condition. In an era when

scientific literacy is steadily dropping among the world population, and where misinformation can be quickly spread through television and the Internet, I also want to help you to be able to better evaluate claims about personality that you will encounter in the media, in college, in the workplace, and in your personal lives. Think scientifically about such claims will help you in adopting only the very best ones.

Class Schedule*

Date	Discussion Topic	Assigned Text Readings**
01/07/2008	Course introduction; research methods	pp. 1-26; 119-157
01/14/2008	Traits, types, and personality assessment; the developmental course of personality	pp. 27-64; 72-118; 197-201; 220-228
01/21/2008	Psychodynamic theory and the neo-Freudians	pp. 159-197
01/28/2008	Motivation and psychological needs	pp. 205-220; 229-244
02/04/2008	Biology, evolution, and trait-based approaches	NONE
02/11/2008	Behaviorism and learning theories	pp. 287-316; 318-325
02/18/2008	** NO CLASS – UTSC READING WEEK **	NONE
02/25/2008	Midterm exam (during scheduled class time)	NONE (Study hard!!)
03/03/2008	The cognitive approach to personality	pp. 333-348; 352-377
03/10/2008	Humanistic theories of personality	pp. 245-272
03/17/2008	Sullivan and interpersonal theory	pp. 381-430
03/24/2008	The relationship of personality and health	pp. 481-528
03/31/2008	Psychopathology and personality	pp. 533-564; 572-580
04/07/2008	Summary: the road to theoretical integration	
TBD	Final exam	NONE (Study hard!!)

*This schedule is subject to slight changes upon discussion and agreement of the entire class.

**Page numbers refer to sections of the Flett *Personality Theory and Research* textbook. Some additional article readings will be posted on the course website (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~psyb30/>).

Basis of Course Grades

The evaluation for the course will be based on two multiple-choice exams, each weighted 50% of the course grade). The exams will not be "cumulative"; however, the final exam will contain a number of questions that address general course themes and may also include a few questions on topics that students struggled with on the midterm exam. I will prepare exam review guides for you at least one week in advance of the exam.

Attendance, Participation, and Respect for Your Colleagues

Attendance in this class is not mandatory, nor are you graded specifically on your attendance, but I strongly encourage you to both regularly attend and actively participate. Simply reading the textbook or copying a classmate's notes will all but ensure that you will miss out on important course content.

This is a course largely about the nature of human beings, and we will touch on issues related to ethnicity, gender, class, age, politics, religion, morality, sexuality, and disability, among others. You will likely have

relevant personal experiences to share, and you may also have strong emotional reactions to these discussions. It can often be difficult to remain objective when somebody says something "ignorant" or "outrageous" about something that you care deeply about.

However, we must we strive to maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect and scholarship. It is very important to me that all of my students feel comfortable asking questions and contributing to class discussions. This means that we all must do our best to respect each other, even if we have strongly differing opinions, and to have patience, even if we feel that someone's questions or contributions are wasting class time. If you feel that we as a class are not meeting these goals successfully (e.g., if you feel personally uncomfortable in my classroom) or if you have any suggestions about how to create a more cooperative classroom environment, please let me know.

Note: Using allotted class time to finish your nap, your dinner, your newspaper, your homework, your conversations, or your e-mails makes it much harder for your classmates and your instructors to do their jobs properly. If you will must arrive late or leave early, please try to minimize disruptions to your classmates.

Academic Misconduct →→→ This section is written in bigger letters for good reason! ☺ ←←←

All work must be your own. Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or other violations of the code of student conduct will not be tolerated. Per university regulations, any suspicions of academic misconduct will be documented and dealt with through proper university channels. Please consult the University of Toronto's code of academic misconduct for more information. I will also post relevant materials on the course Intranet site.

The foundation of good scholarship is ethical conduct. The course assignments are designed to demonstrate your comprehension and analysis of what we cover in this class. I assume you will do your own work, but I will also be vigilant to ensure that is the case. My best advice is to avoid completing your reading and assignments at the last minute, as this will minimize both the likelihood of honest mistakes and the temptation to resort to dishonest behaviors. *If you are unsure whether specific conduct is prohibited, ask before doing it!*

Last, But Not Least...

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Call (416) 287-7560 or send an e-mail to ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

You can use the spaces below to record contact information for some of your classmates.

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