

Course Syllabus for PSYB30H3 (Summer 2008)

"Personality Psychology"

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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. For those students with financial hardships, 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 this 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. Thinking scientifically about such claims will help you in adopting only the very best ones.

Class Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Date	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings*
05/05/2008 (Week 1)	(1) Course introduction (2) Research methods	pp. 1-26; 119-157
05/12/2008 (Week 2)	(1) Traits, types, and personality assessment (2) Personality development	pp. 27-64; 72-118; 197-201; 220-228
05/19/2008 (Week 3)	Psychodynamic theory and the neo-Freudians	pp. 159-197
05/26/2008 (Week 4)	Motivation and psychological needs	pp. 205-220; 229-244
06/02/2008 (Week 5)	Biology, evolution, and trait-based approaches	NONE
06/09/2008 (Week 6)	Behaviorism and learning theories	pp. 287-316; 318-325
06/16/2008 (Week 7)	Midterm Exam	No new readings for this week... Just study hard for the exam!
06/23/2008 (Week 8)	The cognitive approach to personality	pp. 333-348; 352-377
06/30/2008 (Week 9)	Humanistic theories of personality	pp. 245-272
07/07/2008 (Week 10)	Interpersonal theories	pp. 381-430
07/14/2008 (Week 11)	The relationship of personality and health	pp. 481-528
07/21/2008** (Week 12)	Psychopathology and personality	pp. 533-564; 572-580
07/28/2008 (Week 13)	Applied topics in personality psychology	TBA
TBA	Final Exam	Good luck with all of your exams, term papers, and projects!

Notes to the above table:

* Indicates readings from the Flett (2008) textbook.

** July 20, 2008 (Sunday) is the last day to drop Summer Term "Y" courses without academic penalty.

Basis of Course Grades

The evaluation for the course will be based on two multiple-choice format exams (each weighted at 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 each exam.

Academic Misconduct

All submitted work in this course 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 reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please consult Section B of the University of Toronto Code of Student Behaviour on Academic Matters for more information.

The exams are designed to demonstrate your knowledge of what we cover in this class. I trust that you will do your own work, but I will also be vigilant to ensure that is the case. My best suggestion is to try to avoid procrastination when it comes to exam preparation. In my experience, many students cheat because they feel it is the only way for them to succeed if they have not allocated enough time for their studies.

In short, I take these matters extremely seriously. If you are unsure whether some specific conduct is prohibited, then please ask me before doing it!