

PSYD30

CURRENT TOPICS IN PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Prof. Marc A. Fournier

An intensive examination of selected issues and research problems in personality psychology. The specific content will vary from year to year.

Focus for 2016: *Life-Span Personality Development*

Instructor Office Hours: Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm in SW418 (**by appointment**)

Seminar Times: Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in AA204

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Textbook. McAdams, D. P. (2015). *The art and science of personality development*. New York: Guilford. (Available from the UTSC Bookstore and on reserve in the UTSC Library.)

Seminar Schedule

Week 1	January 7	Introduction & Overview
Week 2	January 14	Part I. Becoming an Actor. Chapter 1
Week 3	January 21	Part I. Becoming an Actor. Chapter 2
Week 4	January 28	Part I. Becoming an Actor. Chapter 3
Week 5	February 4	Part I. Becoming an Actor. Chapter 4
Week 6	February 11	Part II. Becoming an Agent. Chapter 5
Week 7	February 25	Part II. Becoming an Agent. Chapter 6
Week 8	March 3	Part II. Becoming an Agent. Chapter 7
Week 9	March 10	Part III. Becoming an Author. Chapter 8
Week 10	March 17	Part III. Becoming an Author. Chapter 9
Week 11	March 24	Part III. Becoming an Author. Chapter 10
Week 12	March 31	Summary & Conclusion

Components of Evaluation

20%	Individual Participation
30%	Group Presentation
50%	Final Exam

The Importance of the First Class

To a much greater extent than lecture-based courses, seminars depend upon students' attendance. The first class of the term is of particular importance, because we will use this class to organize the student presentation schedule for the term. Students who miss the first class without just cause will receive a **2% penalty** that will apply against their final grade.

Individual Participation. I expect you to come to class each week having completed the assigned reading, to pay careful attention to the comments and questions of your classmates, and to contribute regularly and thoughtfully to the class discussion. You will receive course credit for each of these activities. First, I expect you to come to class each week ready to contribute to the discussion. You should submit a one-page reaction paper each week between Weeks 2 and 12, summarizing your comments and questions concerning the chapter that we will be discussing. Please note that I will not be formally grading your reaction papers; rather, I will be skimming them to ensure that you have made a good faith attempt to grapple with the assigned reading. You must submit your reaction papers to me *in person*; reaction papers submitted *in absentia* will not be accepted. You will receive 1% for each reaction paper submitted, up to a total of 10% (allowing you to miss one week without penalty). Second, I expect you to contribute regularly to the class discussion. Your comments should demonstrate that you have read the assigned chapter and reflected upon it. My evaluation of your comments in class will be graded out of 10%.

Group Presentation. I expect you to make one presentation that elaborates upon the issues discussed in the chapter you have selected. You will present in groups of three; each student should speak for approx. 15 minutes, so group presentations should run for approx. 45 minutes in length. I expect you to use PowerPoint as part of your presentation. You will be required to go beyond simply summarizing the chapter. I expect you to provide the class with an expanded perspective and critical analysis of the assigned reading; you can do so by consulting supplementary readings such as journal articles and book chapters. I will expect all presentation groups to schedule an appointment to speak with me about their supplementary materials at least one week before the scheduled date of their presentation. Although all students will present in groups, each student will be evaluated individually in terms of his/her clarity of presentation, his/her comprehension/organization, and his/her use of supplementary readings.

Final Exam. Students will be expected to write a three-hour exam during the final exam period. Exam details will be discussed in class.

Academic Integrity. The University of Toronto treats academic offenses very seriously. Offenders are caught and sanctions can be severe (i.e., a grade of zero, suspension, expulsion). Students are expected both to know and to follow the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. For more information: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

The Writing Centre. Your performance in this class will depend in large part upon your ability to communicate clearly and effectively. The Writing Centre supports student learning at any stage in the writing process, from planning an outline to polishing a final draft. Their services include online resources, drop-in hours, one-on-one consultations, and writing workshops. For more information: <http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/main>

AccessAbility Services. The principal function of AccessAbility Services is to ensure that the policies, practices, procedures, and programs at UTSC are inclusive to ensure the equal access to students with disabilities. The office thus provides accommodations to students with a documented learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disability or medical condition. For more information: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>