

**Psychology 305: Theories of Personality**

Summer Session, 2008

Section 921, 6 Credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

West Mall Swing Space, Room 221

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

**Course Description:** Psychology 305 is an undergraduate course designed to give a broad introduction to theory and research in the area of personality psychology. The course will provide exposure to topics of traditional and contemporary concern to personality psychologists and the methods they use to investigate these topics. We will consider several perspectives on personality, including the dispositional, biological, psychoanalytic, neoanalytic, learning, phenomenological, and cognitive self-regulation perspectives.

**Prerequisites:** Either (a) Psychology 100, (b) Psychology 101 and 102, or (c) 6 credits of 200-level psychology courses (not including Psychology 205 or 263). Note that first year students are not eligible to take this course.

**Course Format:** The format of this course will be lectures with active, in-class discussion. At several points throughout the course, we will engage in class exercises. These exercises will involve watching a biography of an individual and then analyzing his or her personality according to different perspectives on personality. Students will be given a series of questions to discuss in small groups during class. The groups will then be given the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions with the class.

In addition to attending the lectures and participating in the class exercises, students will be expected to complete assigned readings from the textbook. In order to maximally benefit from the class exercises, it is recommended that students keep up to date with the assigned readings.

**Course Website:** The website for this course is [www.psych.ubc.ca/~assanand](http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~assanand). After each class, I will post the slides that I presented. Although the slides will provide a relatively comprehensive review of the lecture material, you may be examined on points that are discussed in class that are not presented in the slides.

**Textbook:** Carver, S. C., & Scheier, M. F. (2008). Perspectives on Personality (6th edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

**Textbook Study Guide Website:** A study guide for the textbook is available at [www.mypsychkit.com](http://www.mypsychkit.com). For each chapter, the study guide provides a chapter summary, practice test questions, web links, media activities, and flashcards. In order to access the website, you will be required to use the "web access card" provided with your textbook.

### **Evaluation:**

**Exams:** Students will be given three exams, each of which will comprise one-third of their final grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Please bring an HB pencil and an eraser to each exam to allow for electronic scoring of the multiple choice questions. Details about each exam (i.e., the number and types of questions) will be presented at the start of the class prior to the exam. Each exam will be 2 hours in duration. The exams will not be cumulative.

The exams will cover both lecture and textbook material. The purpose of the lectures is to amplify, explain, and expand upon the material presented in the textbook. Although there will be overlap between the lectures and the textbook, unique material will be presented in the lectures. Students are responsible for both the material presented in the lectures and the material presented in the textbook.

Please arrive to the exams on time. Following University policy, students who are more than 30 minutes late will not be permitted to write the exam.

Students must write the exams on the dates indicated in the Schedule of Course Topics. Exceptions will be made in the case of medical problems, in which case a doctor's note is required. Exceptions will also be made for students who have religious obligations that conflict with an exam date. If you are unable to write an exam due to medical problems, please contact me before the exam or within 24 hours after the exam. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours after the exam will be assigned a grade of "0" on the exam. If you are unable to write an exam due to religious obligations, please notify me within the first 2 weeks of class. If you are required to write a makeup exam, you are expected to complete it within the shortest time period possible. Moreover, the content and/or format of the makeup exam may differ from the exam that was administered in class.

**Participation:** I strongly encourage and appreciate student participation. Participation may be in the form of questions or comments posed during class amongst your classmates or after class in discussion with me. At the end of the course, I will give students who have demonstrated consistent and thoughtful participation up to 5% in "participation credits." These participation credits will be in the form of bonus credits, added to students' grades after the target grade distribution for the class has been met (see "Department Policy on Distribution of Grades in Psychology Courses" below). In order to encourage students to

participate in discussion during class, I ask that all students respect and support their classmates.

**Reporting of Grades:** Students' grades on the exams will be posted on the course website by student number. I will notify the class via e-mail when I have posted the grades on the website. If you prefer that your grades not be posted on the website, please notify me within the first 2 weeks of class.

You may review your exams with the Teaching Assistant. Requests for the adjustment of a grade must be made within 4 weeks of the posting of the grades. Most requests for adjustment can be settled directly with the Teaching Assistant. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved with the Teaching Assistant, please contact me.

**Department Policy on Distribution of Grades in Psychology Courses:** Courses offered by the Psychology Department are required to meet a target grade distribution. This is done in order to ensure that all students are assessed fairly in relation to students in other sections of the same course and to students in other courses. The target grade distribution for 300-level psychology courses requires that the mean for the class fall between 66% and 70%, with a standard deviation of approximately 13%. Accordingly, students should note that the Department may scale the final grades in this course up or down if the distribution of grades deviates substantially from the target. A student's grade is not official until it appears on his or her academic record.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Psychology Department has taken steps to alleviate them. The Department employs software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. This software will be used to analyze students' responses to the multiple choice questions on the exams in this course. In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Evidence of cheating may result in a "0" credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (available at [www.students.ubc.ca/calendar](http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar)) and University Policy 69 (available at [www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html](http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html)).

**Academic Accommodation:** The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. Please let me know in advance, preferably within the first 2 weeks of class, if you require any accommodation on these grounds.

**Academic Concession:** During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or personal problems that affect your attendance or performance, please notify me. You may obtain academic concession from the Dean of your faculty. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a more thorough discussion of academic concession.

**Withdrawal Dates:** If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so before May 16, 2008. If you wish to withdraw from this course with only a withdrawal standing of "W" on your transcript, you must do so before June 13, 2008.

### Schedule of Course Topics

The schedule provided below is for general reference. The schedule may be changed to accommodate class interest and discussion. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
May 6	Introduction	
May 8	Research Methods	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
May 13	Research Methods, continued	
May 15	Dispositional Perspective	Chapters 4 and 5
May 20	Dispositional Perspective, continued	
May 22	Biological Perspective	Chapters 6 and 7
May 27	Biological Perspective, continued	
May 29	Biological Perspective, continued	
June 3	Analysis of the Personality of a Serial Killer: Jeffrey Dahmer (Class Exercise, Film)	
June 5	<b>Exam 1</b>	
June 10	Psychoanalytic Perspective	Chapters 8 and 9
June 12	Psychoanalytic Perspective, continued	
June 17	Neoanalytic Perspective	Chapters 10 and 11
June 19	Neoanalytic Perspective, continued (Film)	
June 24	Neoanalytic Perspective, continued	
June 26	Analysis of the Personality of a Dictator: Adolf Hitler (Class Exercise, Film)	
July 1	<b>Exam 2</b>	
July 3	Learning Perspective	Chapters 12 and 13
July 8	Phenomenological Perspective	Chapter 14
July 10	Phenomenological Perspective, continued (Film)	
July 15	Cognitive Self-Regulation Perspective	Chapters 16 and 17
July 17	Personality Disorders	
July 22	Analysis of the Personality of a Civil Rights Leader: Malcolm X (Class Exercise, Film)	
July 24	<b>Exam 3</b>	