

Psychology 305B: Theories of Personality

Winter Session, 2007-2008

Section 901, 6 Credits

Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

West Mall Swing Space, Room 221

Instructor

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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. After each class, I will post the overheads that I presented. Although the overheads 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 on the overheads.

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. For each chapter, the study guide provides a chapter summary, practice test questions, web links, media activities, and flashcards. In order to use the website, you will need to register as a first-time user (student). When you register, you will require the following access code: BSWMPK-WHIFF-BEZEL-SCOUT-ABBOT-DALES. Once you have registered, you will need to create a personal login and password to enable you to use the website again.

Evaluation:

Grades in this course will be weighted as follows:

October Midterm:	20%
December Exam:	20%
February Midterm:	20%
April Exam:	20%
Paper:	20%

Exams: Students will be given four exams, each of which will comprise 20% 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. 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.

Paper: Students will be asked to write one paper, which will comprise 20% of their final grade. The purpose of the paper is to gain further experience in the application of personality psychology. For the paper, students will be asked to use one or more of the theories of personality discussed in class (e.g., the five factor model of personality, evolutionary theory, psychoanalytic theory) to describe, analyze, and interpret the life, attitudes, and/or behaviour of a specific individual. Students may choose any individual, including a historical or contemporary leader, an infamous figure, a celebrity, a friend, a family member, or themselves.

The paper will be graded primarily for accuracy and comprehensiveness. Specifically, 80% of the grade for the paper will reflect how accurately and thoughtfully you analyzed the individual's personality. For example, did you accurately apply the theories that you selected to the study of the individual? Did you demonstrate a clear and comprehensive understanding of the theories that you used? Did you think critically about each theory and its ability or inability to account for the individual's characteristics?

The paper will also be graded for style. Specifically, 20% of the grade for the paper will reflect how well your paper was written. For example, was your paper legible? Were there grammatical errors or organizational problems that hindered the reader's ability to interpret your ideas? Were your thoughts communicated clearly and concisely?

The paper should be 8 – 12 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. Please use a 12-point Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins. A title page should be included that contains your name, your student number, and a title for your paper. Any sources of information that are referred to in your paper should be referenced according to the guidelines provided by the American Psychological Association. If you are not familiar with these guidelines, please refer to the American Psychological Association Publication Manual or inquire at the University Library for further information.

Students are expected to submit the paper on the date 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 the due date. If you are unable to submit the paper on the due date as a result of medical problems, please contact me before the due date or within 24 hours after the due date. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours after the due date will be assigned a grade of "0" on the paper. If you are unable to submit the paper on the due date as a result of religious obligations, please notify me within the first 2 weeks of class. If, for any other reason, you are unable to attend class on the day the paper is due, please have someone hand it in for you during class time. Do not leave your paper in my mailbox or the teaching assistant's mailbox. Papers submitted via e-mail will not be accepted.

Students are welcome to meet with me or the teaching assistant for further information about the paper.

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 and the paper 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 and/or your paper 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.

Psychology Department's Policy on Distribution of Grades: 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 adjust the final grades in this course 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 Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, 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 has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to "TurnItIn"—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. Through this service, students' papers are scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" that contain several measures of plagiarism. These reports are forwarded to instructors.

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 or plagiarism 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) and University Policy 69 (available at 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 in 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 September 21, 2007. If you wish to withdraw from this course with only a withdrawal standing of "W" on your transcript, you must do so before November 23, 2007.

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>
September 6	Introduction	
September 13	Research Methods	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
September 20	Research Methods, continued	
September 27	Dispositional Perspective	Chapters 4 and 5
October 4	Dispositional Perspective, continued	
October 11	Midterm	
October 18	Biological Perspective	Chapters 6 and 7
October 25	Biological Perspective, continued	
November 1	Biological Perspective, continued	
November 8	Analysis of the Personality of a Serial Killer: Jeffrey Dahmer (Class Exercise, Film)	
November 15	Psychoanalytic Perspective	Chapters 8 and 9
November 22	Psychoanalytic Perspective, continued	
November 29	Analysis of the Personality of a Dictator: Adolf Hitler (Class Exercise, Film)	
	December Exam: Date Scheduled by the Registrar's Office	
January 10	Neanalytic Perspective	Chapters 10 and 11
January 17	Neanalytic Perspective, continued (Film)	
January 24	Neanalytic Perspective, continued	
January 31	Learning Perspective	Chapters 12 and 13

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
February 7	Analysis of the Personality of a Civil Rights Leader: Malcolm X (Class Exercise, Film)	
February 14	Midterm	
February 21	Midterm Break: Class Cancelled	
February 28	Phenomenological Perspective	Chapters 14
March 6	Phenomenological Perspective, continued (Film)	
March 13	Cognitive Self-Regulation Perspective	Chapters 16 and 17
March 20	Sex Differences in Personality	
March 27	Cultural Differences in Personality Paper Due	
April 3	Personality Disorders	
April 10	Analysis of the Personality of a Social Activist: Mahatma Gandhi (Class Exercise, Film)	
	April Exam: Date Scheduled by the Registrar's Office	