



Department of Psychology

Personality

Psychology 383 (L20) - Spring 2007

Class Time:	Tuesday – Thursday 17:00 to 19:45	Classroom: A167
Instructor:	Guy Pelletier, Ph.D., R.Psych.	
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E-mail:	gpelleti@ucalgary.ca	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Textbook: Liebert, R.M. & Spiegler, M.D. (1998),

Revised by Liebert & Liebert, Personality Strategies & Issues, Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the main theories, concepts and research strategies which characterize the field of personality. Four major approaches to personality will be considered: psychoanalytic (including neo-analytic), dispositional (trait), environmental (behavioral/social learning), and representational (phenomenological). We will examine theories which are representative of each approach, and we will evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. We will also give some consideration to methods of assessment and intervention characteristic of each approach. Toward the end of the course we will focus on some contemporary issues and future directions.

Instructional Approach:

Lecture material will be drawn from the textbook and from various other sources, providing the students with a broad and current presentation of personality psychology. The lectures are intended to highlight ideas, most (but not all) of which are presented in the textbook, and to elaborate upon information. **Thus, the course will be going beyond the textbook and is not intended to be mere repetition.** Questions are strongly encouraged as they enrich the delivery of the lectures. It is unlikely that any of the lectures will fully cover any and all topics that are presented in the textbook. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the assigned readings and are encouraged to read the assigned material prior to the corresponding lecture. This will facilitate a better comprehension of the subjects that will be presented.

Students should keep in mind that this is a survey course intended to provide basic, wide-ranging knowledge of personality psychology. This is an ambitious endeavor that will require the learning and understanding of a considerable amount of information. Students interested in more detailed discussions of various theories and of other subjects in personality psychology will be encouraged to consider higher-level, more advanced courses.

Lecture slides will be made available on **Blackboard** so as to facilitate note taking. The slides will highlight **ONLY** the main points of the lectures and are not meant to replace class attendance. Class attendance is essential to obtain full coverage of the subjects.

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives:

As much as possible, the course will encourage critical thinking, the analysis of problems, the growth of insight and intuition in understanding issues in personality psychology, and the acquisition of basic knowledge which can lead to the development of interpretive and assessment skills.

Course Evaluation:

Paper

The paper should be 8 pages in length, and will be worth 25% of the final grade.

- 1) Get started early, and look at the textbook or at the many journals dedicated to personality, social psychology, or organizational psychology for ideas (such journals include, for instance: Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; European Journal of Personality; Personality and Social Psychology; Personality and Individual Differences).
- 2) Submit a one paragraph outline specifying your topic and a plan for the development of the topic on or before **May 22, 2007**. If you change your mind, please indicate your changes to me in writing or by e-mail. The completed paper is due **June 21, 2007, at the beginning of the lecture (by 5:05 PM)**. **Late submissions of the outline or the paper will be penalized.** Failure to submit the paper in class on the due date will result **in the loss of 10% of the paper grade per day for each day (including weekends) beyond the deadline date and time.** Do not slide the paper under my office door: the office is assigned to many lecturers and since I do not work on campus I rarely go there. Late papers can be handed to the main office of the Department of Psychology where they will be date stamped. Late papers that are not date stamped will be considered accepted on the day that I receive them. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.
- 3) The paper must be in the latest **APA style, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and written in Times New Roman 12 point font.** The paper must reflect a critical analysis of the research on the topic that you have selected. You must use articles from peer-reviewed journals, although books are acceptable and I will allow a maximum of 2 book references. You must have at least 8 references from primary sources. Quoting a secondary source within an article does not count as an extra reference. It is best if you read the articles rather than just citing them: superficial understanding tends to show. I will be electronically checking the references that you use. If I cannot find a reference I will contact you. So please, proofread your references carefully and make sure that they are accessible through the U of C library. Also, do pay attention to the section on plagiarism in this outline.

Exams:

There will be one Mid-term exam and a final exam scheduled by the Registrar. The format for all the exams will be multiple choice.

Mid-term exam:	35%	Chapters 1 to 10 and lectures, 70 minutes, June 07 2007
Term Paper	25%	Due on June 21, 2007
Final Exam:	40%	Chapters 11 to 19 and lectures, 2 hours, to be scheduled by the Registrar

-Course Grading Scheme:

A+ 96-100%	B+ 80-84%	C+ 67-71%	D+ 54-58%
A 90-95%	B 76-79%	C 63-66%	D 50-53%
A- 85-89%	B- 72-75%	C- 59-62%	F 0-49%

Tentative Course/Lecture Schedule:

Class Date	Course Topic	Text Reading
May 15	Introduction: History of Modern Personality Theory and Research Methods of Personality Research and Assessment, The Psychoanalytic Strategy	Ch 1, 2, 3
May 17	The Psychoanalytic Strategy	Ch 3-6
May 22	The Psychoanalytic Strategy (end), The Dispositional Strategy	Ch 6, Ch 7-10
	Paragraph outline due	
May 24	The Dispositional Strategy	Ch 7-10

May 29	The Dispositional Strategy (end)	Ch 10, Ch 11-14
May 31	The Environmental Strategy Mid-term exam	Ch 11-14
	The Environmental Strategy	
June 05	Mid-term break. No lecture	
June 07	The Environmental Strategy	Ch 15-18
	The Representational Strategy	
June 12	The Representational Strategy	Ch 15-18
June 14	The Representational Strategy (end)	Ch 17 (part)
June 19	The Personal Narrative and the Self	
June 21	Personality Disorders and Personality Theory	Ch 19
	Term Paper due	
June 26	Commonalities and Continuing Controversies, Summary and question period	
June 27 -29	Final Exam to be Scheduled by the Registrar	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Bonus Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in departmentally-approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in research and **ALLOCATE YOUR CREDITS TO THIS COURSE** is **June 25, 2007**.

The last day to withdraw from this course and **still receive a fee refund** is May 16, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is June 26, 2007.