



PS 330 POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF A GOOD LIFE
IES Abroad Paris

DESCRIPTION:

While psychological science has made tremendous strides in understanding pathology, explaining weaknesses, and treating illness, the past two decades have seen the birth of a new wave in psychology – one that explores human flourishing. What is a good life? What makes people flourish? How can building our strengths and virtues help us thrive? Through our exploration of the latest psychological research in Cognition (*thoughts*), Affect (*feelings*), and Behavior (*actions*), we will discover the science behind a good life and examine the factors that contribute to well-being.

Why Positive Psychology and why now? During their semester abroad, students often find themselves outside of their comfort zones. As they accumulate a wealth of experiences, knowledge, and connections, students may naturally engage in self-reflection about their own lives. This class offers a unique opportunity to not only learn about the science of well-being but also to put these empirical findings into practice. Each week, we will consider a different intervention from Positive Psychology that the students will apply in their own lives and reflect on in their journals. The course strives to add to the students' knowledge of the psychology of happiness, but also to their understanding of their own well-being. As a crucial insight from any study abroad program, this exploration can nudge the students to take a step closer to themselves while being far away from home.

Each week, students are expected to engage in self-reflections and, at times, to share their personal insights with their classmates and the instructor. While every effort is made to create a safe and warm in-class atmosphere, students who may not wish to share their self-reflections publicly will be offered other accommodations (for example, by having 1:1 discussions with the instructor).

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Lectures, Discussions, Group exercises, Presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT

- Participation – 10%
- Learning Journal - 20%
- Exam 1 - 25%
- Presentations - 20%
- Exam 2– 25%

Course Participation

A rubric for student participation will be posted on Moodle and shared with students at the beginning of the term.

Learning Journal

The students will keep a digital Learning Journal, where they will record their reflections about the course and integrate the course concepts into their lives. Each week, they will write an entry in their Journal (200-500 words) based on the reading assignments, activities or classroom discussions and upload it on Moodle. The students should strive to write observations that are thoughtful and meaningful to them and reflect deeply on how the concepts that we covered in class relate to their own lives. Some questions to



consider for Learning Journal entries for each week: 1) What was the most interesting/inspiring finding, theory, practice you discovered from this week's class and readings? 2) In what ways is this idea useful to you personally? 3) How can you apply these new insights to add to your well-being?

In addition, the students will use their Learning Journals to record various experimental assignments for each week (for example, Gratitude Letter, Strengths Reflections, Best Self).

The students will receive a final grade for their Learning Journal entries, which will constitute 20% of their overall grade for the course.

Exam 1

Exam 1 (take-home) will comprise of 5-6 short essay questions covering the contents of Week 1-Week 7.

Exam 2

Exam 2 (in-class) will comprise of 5-6 short essay questions covering the contents of Week 9-Week 12.

Presentations: My Own Well-Being Recipe

Having explored a wealth of scientific research on well-being, it's time for *me-search*. The students will review and incorporate scientifically validated components of a good life from Positive Psychology findings and comprise (or compose, encompass) a personalized formula for their own well-being. Some questions to guide them along: What ingredients will I choose for my happiness recipe? What do I need to be happy? What does flourishing mean for me? During their presentations (15 minutes + 5 minutes discussion), the students will support each one of their chosen ingredients with findings from psychological science, including theories, experiments, and interventions. Then, they will infuse flavor and meaning into their recipes by incorporating examples from their own personal life experiences. The students will meet individually with the professor to discuss their possible topics, prior to finalizing their choice for the presentations and beginning their research. The students will also be asked to hand in a written, detailed outline of their presentations on the day of their presentations. All those who are not presenting are listening intently to come up with follow-up questions for the presenter.

Grading rubric for presentations:

Content (60 points)

The student gives a succinct yet complete overview of the appropriate literature and has identified and explained the specific concepts, theories, and interventions relevant for their formula. The student draws on examples and insights from their own life to formulate a hypothesis for a well-being recipe for themselves.

- Explaining psychological research, findings, concepts that were covered in class (30)
- Application of findings to own life, reflections, examples, case studies (30)

Delivery (30 points)

The student tells an engaging, clear story that combines previous scientific findings with their own life examples and uses the slides to draw attention to important points.

- Clarity (10)
- Slides (10)
- Eye-contact/engagement/oratory (10)

Discussion (10 points)



- The student can engage in a productive, critical discussion about their presentation and can aptly respond to questions about it.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify key concepts and findings from the field of Positive Psychology.
- Describe how scientific methods can advance the understanding of human flourishing.
- Review and put into practice scientifically validated strategies for living more fulfilled and happier lives.
- Articulate commonly held misconceptions about happiness.
- Develop confidence as public speakers by presenting in front of the class.
- Engage in critical thinking through classroom discussion and debates.
- Explore and reflect on the drivers of their own well-being.

CONTENT

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Positive Psychology • What is Positive Psychology? • Why seek a more complete, balanced view of human functioning? • What makes a good life? • Historical perspective: influences from eastern and western philosophical traditions Themes and scopes of positive psychology	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 6-9 & 17-21) (9 p.) • Seligman, M. E. (2002). Positive psychology, positive prevention, and positive therapy. <i>Handbook of Positive Psychology, 2</i>, (p. 3-12) (9 p.) Diener, E. (2009). Positive psychology: Past, present, and future. <i>Oxford Handbook of Positive Psychology</i>, (p. 7-11) (4 p.)



Week 2	What is happiness? In this session we will explore humanity's relentless quest for happiness. • What is happiness (vs. subjective well-being)? • How is it measured in science? • What are the benefits of happiness? • Myths about happiness: why do we often get it wrong? • The dark side of happiness • Happiness across cultures	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 68 & 78) (10 p.) • Diener, E., Lucas, R. E., & Oishi, S. (2002). Subjective well-being: The science of happiness and life satisfaction. <i>Handbook of Positive Psychology</i>, 2, (p. 63-73) (10 p.) • Bao, K. J., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2013). The rewards of happiness. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Happiness</i>, (p. 119-133) (14 p.) • Diener, E., & Tay, L. (2017). A scientific review of the remarkable benefits of happiness for successful and healthy living. <i>Happiness</i>, (p. 90-117) (27 p.) • Schueller, S. M., & Seligman, M. E. (2010). Pursuit of pleasure, engagement, and meaning: Relationships to subjective and objective measures of well-being. <i>The Journal of Positive Psychology</i>, 5(4), (p. 253-263) (10 p.) Assignment: Measure your happiness levels. Take the Authentic Happiness Inventory via UPenn's Authentic Happiness Website. This quiz offers a scientifically validated measure of your happiness levels. Please record your score in your Learning Journal. You will take the quiz again at the end of the semester to see whether there were any changes to your baseline score after completing the course.
---------------	--	---

Week 3

Character strengths and virtues

This week we will explore one of the key pillars of Positive Psychology: character strengths.

What are positive traits and character strengths and how do they inform human flourishing?

- What are character strengths?
- How to measure them?
- The Values in Action (VIA) survey
- Strength-based approaches in parenting, workplace, relationships, self-actualization
- Re(discovering) your own character strengths

Readings:

- Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 46-60) (15 p.)
- Peterson, C., & Park, N. (2009). Classifying and Measuring Strengths of Character. *Oxford handbook of Positive Psychology*, (p. 25-33) (8 p.)
- Niemiec, R. M. (2013). VIA character strengths: Research and practice (The first 10 years). In *Well-being and cultures* (p. 11-29) (18 p.)
- Peterson, C., Ruch, W., Beermann, U., Park, N., & Seligman, M. E. (2007). Strengths of character, orientations to happiness, and life satisfaction. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 2(3), (p. 149-156) (7 p.)
- Rashid, T. (2015). Positive psychotherapy: A strength-based approach. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 10(1), (p. 25-40) (15 p.)
- Waters, L., Loton, D., & Jach, H. (2019). Does Strength-Based Parenting Predict Academic Achievement? The Mediating Effects of Perseverance and Engagement. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, (p. 1-20) (19 p.)

Assignment: Discover and experience your signature character strengths.

Take the [VIA character strengths test](#). The survey comprises of 240 questions and gives you a ranking of your 24 strengths. In your Learning Journal, write down your top 10 character strengths. Choose a few signature strengths from the list and for the next week, find ways to use these strengths in different ways every day.

In addition, make a “strength date” with one of your classmates (or someone else who has taken the VIA survey). Consider which signature strengths you share and plan an activity (around 1 hour) where you both tap into your strengths together. For example, if *kindness* is one of the strengths you share, do a kind deed together. The premise of this activity is to witness and experience your signature strengths in action, while at the same time, sharing time with each other. Feel free to take a picture of your “strength date” for reflection in your Learning Journal and during class.

Week 4	Positive Emotions (Part 1) This week we will explore the role of positive emotions (sometimes referred to as the “tiny engines” of Positive Psychology) in human flourishing and how our daily experience of positive emotions can function as nutrients for our well-being. • What is an emotion? • Positive vs. negative emotions • 10 positive emotions • The Broaden and Build Theory of positive emotions • The effect of positive emotions on well-being • Positivity resonance and upward spirals • Positivity ratios: pathology, languishing, flourishing • Emotional intelligence	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 114-135) (20 p.) • Fredrickson, B. L. (2001). The role of positive emotions in positive psychology: The broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions. <i>American Psychologist</i>, 56(3), (p. 218-226) (8 p.) • Lyubomirsky, S., King, L., & Diener, E. (2005). The benefits of frequent positive affect: Does happiness lead to success? <i>Psychological Bulletin</i>, 131(6), (p. 803-855) (52 p.) • Kok, B. E., Coffey, K. A., Cohn, M. A., Catalino, L. I., Vacharkulksemsuk, T., Algoe, S. B., ... & Fredrickson, B. L. (2013). How positive emotions build physical health: Perceived positive social connections account for the upward spiral between positive emotions and vagal tone. <i>Psychological Science</i>, 24(7), (p. 1123-1132) (9 p.) Assignment: 3 good things. For this week, every evening jot down 3 things that 1) went well during the day, and 2) explain what made them go well. For example, “I had a wonderful time at dinner with new friends. This happened because I've been proactive about reaching out to new people, even if I'm feeling shy.” You can find detailed instructions on how to do this exercise here: https://ggia.berkeley.edu/practice/three-good-things
----------------------	--	---

Week 5

Positive emotions (Part 2)

This week we will continue with our investigation of positive emotions and the good life by examining the science behind three important emotions:

- Love
- Gratitude
- Altruism
- Awe

Readings:

- Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 265-273 & 278-287) (20 p.)
- Esch, T., & Stefano, G. B. (2005). Love promotes health. *Neuroendocrinology Letters*, 26(3), (p. 264-267) (3 p.)
- Diamond, L. (2014). Romantic love. In Tugade, M. M., Shiota, M. N., & Kirby, L. D. (Eds.). *Handbook of positive emotions*. Guilford Publications (p. 311-328) (17 p.)
- Emmons, R. A., & Shelton, C. M. (2002). Gratitude and the science of positive psychology. *Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 18, (p. 459-471) (12 p.)
- Keltner, D., & Haidt, J. (2003). Approaching awe, a moral, spiritual, and aesthetic emotion. *Cognition and Emotion*, 17(2), (p. 297-314) (17 p.)
- Fredrickson, B. L., Cohn, M. A., Coffey, K. A., Pek, J., & Finkel, S. M. (2008). Open hearts build lives: positive emotions, induced through loving-kindness meditation, build consequential personal resources. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 95(5), (p. 1045-1062) (17 p.)
- [Guardian forest bathing article](#) (1 p.)

		Assignment: Gratitude letter. Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has made a difference in your life. Spend some time reflecting on how this person has touched your life in big or small ways, why he or she is meaningful to you, and then, incorporate those feelings of thankfulness into your writing. If possible, deliver the letter in person, or read the letter to them out loud. Reflect on how writing this gratitude letter made you feel in your Learning Journal.
Week 6	Positive Cognitive States How do cognitive states and processes shape well-being? This week we will explore the significance of the following states: • Optimism • Hope • Self-efficacy • Creativity • Flow	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 171-174; 178-185 & 188-196) (21 p.) • Carver, C. S., Scheier, M. F., & Segerstrom, S. C. (2010). Optimism. <i>Clinical psychology review</i>, 30(7), (p. 879-889) (10p.) • Nakamura, J., & Csikszentmihalyi, M. (2014). The concept of flow. In <i>Flow and the foundations of positive psychology</i> (p. 239-263) (24 p.) • Maddux, J. E. (2012). Self-efficacy: The Power of Believing You Can. <i>Handbook of Positive Psychology</i> (p. 277-287). (15 p.) • Simonton, D. K. (2012). Creativity. In S. J. Lopez & C. R. Snyder (Eds.) <i>Handbook of Positive Psychology</i> (15 p.) Assignment: Best possible self. This week we will be doing the Best Possible Self exercise, which has been shown to be one of the most popular and effective interventions in Positive Psychology to improve well-being, optimism, and positive affect (you can find a recent review of literature on this exercise here). Take 30 minutes (or longer if you need more time) to imagine a future (let's say in the next 20 years), where you have grown in all the ways you would like to, and everything has gone as well as it possibly could. Write about it in your Learning Journal. You can imagine different areas of your life, including your family life, your career, your physical & mental health, your romantic life, etc. How would your best possible life look like? What is your best possible self like? What do others say about you? For more detailed instructions on how to complete this exercise, please see here: https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/pdfs/optimism_intervention.pdf

Week 7	Exam 1	Take-home exam 3hrs
Week 8	Positive neuroscience This week we will discuss findings from the emerging field of Positive Neuroscience and explore the brain mechanisms behind positive human functioning and flourishing. • The brain • Methods in neuroscience • Studying happiness in the brain A biological portrait of wellbeing	Readings: • Burgdorf, J., & Panksepp, J. (2006). The neurobiology of positive emotions. <i>Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews</i>, 30(2), (p. 173-187) (14 p.) • Davidson, R. J., & Schuyler, B. S. (2015). Neuroscience of happiness. <i>World happiness Report</i>, (p. 88-105) (17 p.) • Tang, Y. Y., Hölzel, B. K., & Posner, M. I. (2015). The neuroscience of mindfulness meditation. <i>Nature Reviews Neuroscience</i>, 16(4), (p. 213-225) (12 p.) • Inagaki, T. K., & Eisenberger, N. I. (2013). Shared neural mechanisms underlying social warmth and physical warmth. <i>Psychological Science</i>, 24(11), (p. 2272-2280) (8 p.) • Begley, S. (2007). The brain: How the brain rewires itself. <i>Time Magazine</i>, (p. 1-6) (6 p.) Assignment: Random acts of kindness. Perform one random act of kindness each day for this week. These can be small acts, such as helping a friend, saying something kind to a stranger, writing a thank you note, etc. Keep track of your acts of kindness in your Learning Journal and reflect on how they made you feel.
Week 9	Interpersonal processes "Other people matter." This week we will explore positive social connections and their fundamental role in our well-being. • Why do other people matter? • Attachment: Infant & Childhood vs. Adult • Romantic love, positive families, friendships • What hurts relationships? • How to nurture positive relationships • Supportive listening • Compassion vs. empathy • Forgiveness • Cooperation • Kindness	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, Chapter 12 (p. 294-320) (36 p.) • Neff, K. D. (2011). Self-compassion, self-esteem, and well-being. <i>Social and Personality Psychology Compass</i>, 5(1), (p. 1-12) (12 p.) • Rowland, L., & Curry, O. S. (2019). A range of kindness activities boost happiness. <i>The Journal of Social Psychology</i>, 159(3), (p. 340-343) (3 p.) • Fishbane, M. D. (2007). Wired to connect: Neuroscience, relationships, and therapy. <i>Family Process</i>, 46(3), (p. 395-412) (17 p.) • House, J. S., Landis, K. R., & Umberson, D. (1988). Social relationships and health. <i>Science</i>, 241(4865), (p. 540-545) (5 p.) • Gable, S. L., Reis, H. T., Impett, E. A., & Asher, E. R. (2004). What Do You Do When Things Go Right? The Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Benefits of Sharing Positive Events. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i>, 87(2), (p. 228-245) (17 p.)



		Assignment: Make a social connection. This week, put effort into making new social connections on as many days as possible. It may be a brief chat with someone from your dorm, or a classmate you don't usually interact with. Or you might take more time to nurture an existing connection with someone who is important to you – a family member at home, a close friend. The significance of this exercise is in making a genuine social connection with another person. Reflect in your Learning Journal about how taking time to nurture a social connection made you feel.
Week 10	Positive Behaviors This week we will examine the mechanisms behind Positive Psychology interventions, and how our actions can foster our well-being. • How do interventions work? • Examples of successful positive psychology interventions • What enables behavioral change? • Setting goals • WOOP (Wish, Outcome, Obstacle, Plan) method • Mindfulness	Readings: • Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication, (p. 331-349 (19 p.)) • Lyubomirsky, S., & Layous, K. (2013). How do simple positive activities increase well-being? <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, 22(1), (p. 57-62) (5 p.) • Layous, K., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2014). The how, why, what, when, and who of happiness: Mechanisms underlying the success of positive activity interventions. <i>Positive emotion: Integrating the light sides and dark sides</i>, (p. 473-495) (22 p.) • Oettingen, G., & Reininger, K. M. (2016). The power of prospection: mental contrasting and behavior change. <i>Social and Personality Psychology Compass</i>, 10(11), (p. 591-604) (13 p.) • Siegel, R. D., Germer, C. K., & Olendzki, A. (2009). Mindfulness: What is it? Where did it come from? In <i>Clinical handbook of mindfulness</i> (p. 17-35) (17 p.) Assignment: Meditate. Whether you are new to meditation or have an established meditation practice, this week, spend (at least) 10 minutes each day meditating. Feel free to use guided meditations or apps available to you. If you are among the many who find meditation challenging at first, think of it as building an essential well-being boosting skill that you can use in your life. Reflect on your meditation experiences in your Learning Journal.

Week 11	Positive health Good health is a central pillar of well-being. This week we will investigate scientific findings on various health behaviors that serve as crucial pathways to leading a good life and nurturing our physical and mental well-being. • Stress • Sleep • Exercise • Vagus nerve • Health behaviors	Readings: • Thoits, P. A. (2010). Stress and health: Major findings and policy implications. <i>Journal of health and social behavior</i>, 51(1_suppl), (p. 41-53) (12 p.) • Pressman, S. D., Gallagher, M. W., & Lopez, S. J. (2013). Is the emotion-health connection a “first-world problem”? <i>Psychological science</i>, 24(4), (p. 544-549) (5 p.) • Grossman, P., Niemann, L., Schmidt, S., & Walach, H. (2004). Mindfulness-based stress reduction and health benefits: A meta-analysis. <i>Journal of psychosomatic research</i>, 57(1), (p. 35-43) (8 p.) • Seligman, M. E. (2008). Positive health. <i>Applied Psychology</i>, 57(s1), (p. 3-18) (15 p.) • Callaghan, P. (2004). Exercise: A neglected intervention in mental health care? <i>Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing</i>, 11, (p. 476-483) (7 p.) • Veenhoven, R. (2008). Healthy happiness: Effects of happiness on physical health and the consequences for preventive health care. <i>Journal of happiness studies</i>, 9(3), (p. 449-469) (20 p.) • APA (2004). More sleep would make us happier, healthier and safer. <i>Psychology in Action: American Psychological Association website</i>. February 2004. http://www.apa.org/action/resources/research-in-action/sleep-deprivation.aspx (2 p.) Assignment: Exercise & Sleep. For this week’s activity, we are going back to the basics – exercise and sleep. For as many days in the week as possible, try to get some (at least 20 minutes) exercise. This doesn’t have to be a marathon-level training. Go for a brisk walk; take your bike to class; do yoga with a friend; put your headphones on and dance to your favorite songs. The point is to become intentional about getting physical activity (maybe more than usual) and noticing any changes in your mood. Next up: sleep. Try to get at least 7 hours of sleep on as many nights as possible this week. At the end of the week, reflect in your Learning Journal about any changes in your physical/mental well-being after your exercise and sleep challenge.
-----------------------	--	--

Week 12

Resilience

Leading a good life means being able to rise back up from inevitable setbacks. This week we will explore resilience – the human capacity to withstand hardships.

- What is resilience?
- Nurturing resilience
- Growth mindset vs. fixed mindset
- Post-traumatic growth
- Coping

Readings:

- Masten, A. S., Cutuli, J. J., Herbers, J. E., & Gabrielle-Reed, M. J. (2009). Resilience in development. In C. R. Snyder, & S. J. Lopez (Eds.), *The handbook of positive psychology*, 2nd Edition ed., New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (p. 117-131) (14 p.)
- Cadell, S., Regehr, C., & Hemsworth, D. (2003). Factors contributing to posttraumatic growth: A proposed structural equation model. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 73(3), (p. 279-287) (9 p.)
- Joseph, S., Murphy, D., & Regel, S. (2012). An affective–cognitive processing model of post-traumatic growth. *Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 19(4), (p. 316-325) (9 p.)
- Yeager, D. S., & Dweck, C. S. (2012). Mindsets that promote resilience: When students believe that personal characteristics can be developed. *Educational Psychologist*, 47(4), (p. 302-314) (12 p.)
- The Road to Resilience, APA
<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/road-resilience> (7 p.)

Assignment: Write a self-compassion letter to yourself.

Think of a recent difficult or stressful experience from your life. Be sure to pick an experience that you are comfortable writing about. Write a self-compassion letter to yourself, in the second person, about this experience. Allow yourself to remember the situation. Then acknowledge your feelings or thoughts, as well as what you had hoped for or needed at that moment. For example, “Dear Jane, I know that you are feeling [sad/stressed, etc.]; You were really [looking forward to.../trying your best to..., etc.]” Write about the stress you experienced, as well as the core needs underneath it: a desire for health, safety, love, appreciation, connection, achievement, etc. Remind yourself about our common humanity: “Everyone make mistakes, fails, experiences anger, stress, loss, disappointment, etc.” Mentor yourself with some compassionate advice or encouragement, as if you were talking to a loved one. What would you say in the same situation to someone who is dear to you? *How* would you say it (e.g. gentle voice, caring words)? After writing the letter, consider reading it out loud to yourself, or putting it away for when you need self-compassion. Research shows that when study participants wrote a self-compassionate letter to themselves for seven days in a row, they continued to



		experience increased happiness six months later, when compared to a control group (Shapira, et al, 2010). Please note that you don't have to share the content of your self-compassion letter with me if you don't wish to. In class, we will reflect on the experience of self-compassion and how it felt to write the letter, rather than the content of the letter itself.
Week 13	1.5 hrs REVIEW SESSION	
FINAL EXAM Date TBD	Exam 2 - 1.5 hrs	In-class exam

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS: None

REQUIRED READINGS:

- APA (2004). More sleep would make us happier, healthier and safer. *Psychology in Action: American Psychological Association website*. February 2004. <http://www.apa.org/action/resources/research-in-action/sleep-deprivation.aspx>
- Bao, K. J., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2013). The rewards of happiness. *The Oxford Handbook of Happiness*, 119-133.
- Begley, S. (2007). The brain: How the brain rewires itself. *Time Magazine*, 1-6.

- Burdorf, J., & Panksepp, J. (2006). The neurobiology of positive emotions. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 30(2), 173-187.
- Cadell, S., Regehr, C., & Hemsworth, D. (2003). Factors contributing to posttraumatic growth: A proposed structural equation model. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 73(3), 279-287.
- Callaghan, P. (2004). Exercise: A neglected intervention in mental health care? *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 11, 476-483.
- Compton, W. C., & Hoffman, E. (2019). Positive institutions and cultural well-being. In *Positive psychology: The science of happiness and flourishing*. SAGE Publications (p. 347-367).
- Compton, W. C., & Hoffman, E. (2019). A look towards the future of positive psychology. In *Positive psychology: The science of happiness and flourishing*. SAGE Publications (p. 379-395).
- Davidson, R. J., & Schuyler, B. S. (2015). Neuroscience of happiness. *World happiness Report*, 88-105.
- Diener, E. (2009). Positive psychology: Past, present, and future. *Oxford Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 7-11.
- Diener, E., Lucas, R. E., & Oishi, S. (2002). Subjective well-being: The science of happiness and life satisfaction. *Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 2, 63-73.
- Diener, E., & Tay, L. (2017). A scientific review of the remarkable benefits of happiness for successful and healthy living. *Happiness*, 90-117.
- Emmons, R. A., & Shelton, C. M. (2002). Gratitude and the science of positive psychology. *Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 18, 459-471.
- Esch, T., & Stefano, G. B. (2005). Love promotes health. *Neuroendocrinology Letters*, 26(3), 264-267.
- Fishbane, M. D. (2007). Wired to connect: Neuroscience, relationships, and therapy. *Family Process*, 46(3), 395-412.
- Fredrickson, B. L. (2001). The role of positive emotions in positive psychology: The broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions. *American Psychologist*, 56(3), 218-226.
- Fredrickson, B. L., Cohn, M. A., Coffey, K. A., Pek, J., & Finkel, S. M. (2008). Open hearts build lives: positive emotions, induced through loving-kindness meditation, build consequential personal resources. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 95(5), 1045-1062.
- Gable, S. L., Reis, H. T., Impett, E. A., & Asher, E. R. (2004). What Do You Do When Things Go Right? The Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Benefits of Sharing Positive Events. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 87(2), 228-245.
- Grossman, P., Niemann, L., Schmidt, S., & Walach, H. (2004). Mindfulness-based stress reduction and health benefits: A meta-analysis. *Journal of psychosomatic research*, 57(1), 35-43.
- [Guardian forest bathing article](#)
- House, J. S., Landis, K. R., & Umberson, D. (1988). Social relationships and health. *Science*, 241(4865), 540-545.
- Inagaki, T. K., & Eisenberger, N. I. (2013). Shared neural mechanisms underlying social warmth and physical warmth. *Psychological Science*, 24(11), 2272-2280.
- Joseph, S., Murphy, D., & Regel, S. (2012). An affective-cognitive processing model of post-traumatic growth. *Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 19(4), 316-325.
- Keltner, D., & Haidt, J. (2003). Approaching awe, a moral, spiritual, and aesthetic emotion. *Cognition and Emotion*, 17(2), 297-314.
- Kok, B. E., Coffey, K. A., Cohn, M. A., Catalino, L. I., Vacharkulksemsuk, T., Algoe, S. B., ... & Fredrickson, B. L. (2013). How positive emotions build physical health: Perceived positive social connections account for the upward spiral between positive emotions and vagal tone. *Psychological Science*, 24(7), 1123-1132.
- Layous, K., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2014). The how, why, what, when, and who of happiness: Mechanisms underlying the success of positive activity interventions. *Positive emotion: Integrating the light sides and dark sides*, 473-495.
- Lopez, S. J. (2009). The future of positive psychology: Pursuing three big goals. In *The Oxford Handbook of Positive Psychology*. (p. 89-98).
- Lyubomirsky, S., King, L., & Diener, E. (2005). The benefits of frequent positive affect: Does happiness lead to success? *Psychological Bulletin*, 131(6), 803-855.

- Lyubomirsky, S., & Layous, K. (2013). How do simple positive activities increase well-being? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 22(1), 57-62.
- Maddux, J. E. (2012). Self-efficacy: The Power of Believing You Can. *Handbook of Positive Psychology* (pp. 277-287). Oxford University Press.
- Masten, A. S., Cutuli, J. J., Herbers, J. E., & Gabrielle-Reed, M. J. (2009). Resilience in development. In C. R. Snyder, & S. J. Lopez (Eds.), *The handbook of positive psychology* (2nd Edition ed., pp. 117-131). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Neff, K. D. (2011). Self-compassion, self-esteem, and well-being. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 5(1), 1-12.
- Nakamura, J., & Csikszentmihalyi, M. (2014). The concept of flow. In *Flow and the foundations of positive psychology* (pp. 239-263). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Niemiec, R. M. (2013). VIA character strengths: Research and practice (The first 10 years). In *Well-being and cultures* (pp. 11-29). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Oettingen, G., & Reininger, K. M. (2016). The power of prospection: mental contrasting and behavior change. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 10(11), 591-604.
- Pedrotti, J. T., Lopez, S. J., McDermott, R. C., & Snyder, C. R. (2024). Positive psychology: The scientific and practical explorations of human strengths. SAGE Publication
- Peterson, C., & Park, N. (2009). Classifying and Measuring Strengths of Character. *Oxford handbook of Positive Psychology*, 25-33.
- Peterson, C., Ruch, W., Beermann, U., Park, N., & Seligman, M. E. (2007). Strengths of character, orientations to happiness, and life satisfaction. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 2(3), 149-156.
- Pressman, S. D., Gallagher, M. W., & Lopez, S. J. (2013). Is the emotion-health connection a “first-world problem”? *Psychological science*, 24(4), 544-549.
- Rashid, T. (2015). Positive psychotherapy: A strength-based approach. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 10(1), 25-40.
- Rowland, L., & Curry, O. S. (2019). A range of kindness activities boost happiness. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 159(3), 340-343.
- Schueller, S. M., & Seligman, M. E. (2010). Pursuit of pleasure, engagement, and meaning: Relationships to subjective and objective measures of well-being. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 5(4), 253-263.
- Segerstrom, S. C., Carver, C. S., & Scheier, M. F. (2017). Optimism. In *The happy mind: Cognitive contributions to well-being* (pp. 195-212). Springer, Cham.
- Seligman, M. E. (2002). Positive psychology, positive prevention, and positive therapy. *Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 2(2002), 3-12.
- Seligman, M. E. (2008). Positive health. *Applied Psychology*, 57(s1), 3-18.
- Siegel, R. D., Germer, C. K., & Olendzki, A. (2009). Mindfulness: What is it? Where did it come from? In *Clinical handbook of mindfulness* (pp. 17-35). Springer, New York, NY.
- Simonton, D. K. (2012). Creativity. In S. J. Lopez & C. R. Snyder (Eds.) *Handbook of Positive Psychology* (pp. 189-201). Oxford University Press.
- Tang, Y. Y., Hölzel, B. K., & Posner, M. I. (2015). The neuroscience of mindfulness meditation. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 16(4), 213-225.
- The Road to Resilience, American Psychological Association <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/road-resilience>
- Thoits, P. A. (2010). Stress and health: Major findings and policy implications. *Journal of health and social behavior*, 51(1_suppl), S41-S53.
- Tomlinson, J.M. & Aron, A. (2013). The positive psychology of romantic love. In M. Hojjat & D. Cramer (Eds.), *Positive Psychology of Love* (pp. 3-15). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Veenhoven, R. (2008). Healthy happiness: Effects of happiness on physical health and the consequences for preventive health care. *Journal of happiness studies*, 9(3), 449-469.
- Waters, L., Loton, D., & Jach, H. (2019). Does Strength-Based Parenting Predict Academic Achievement? The Mediating Effects of Perseverance and Engagement. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 1-20.
- White, M. A., & Murray, A. S. (2015). Building a positive institution. In *Evidence-based approaches in positive education*. Springer, Dordrecht. (pp. 1-26).



- Yeager, D. S., & Dweck, C. S. (2012). Mindsets that promote resilience: When students believe that personal characteristics can be developed. *Educational Psychologist*, 47(4), 302-314.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Bhattacharjee, A., & Mogilner, C. (2013). Happiness from ordinary and extraordinary experiences. *Journal of Consumer Research*, 41(1), 1-17.
- Bolier, L., Haverman, M., Westerhof, G. J., Riper, H., Smit, F., & Bohlmeijer, E. (2013). Positive psychology interventions: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled studies. *BMC Public Health*, 13(1), 119.
- Brown, K. W., & Ryan, R. M. (2003). The benefits of being present: mindfulness and its role in psychological well-being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 84(4), 822-848.
- Cameron, M., Crane, N., Ings, R., & Taylor, K. (2013). Promoting well-being through creativity: how arts and public health can learn from each other. *Perspectives in Public Health*, 133(1), 52-59.
- Diener, E., & Chan, M. Y. (2011). Happy people live longer: Subjective well-being contributes to health and longevity. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 3(1), 1-43.
- Diener, E., Kanazawa, S., Suh, E. M., & Oishi, S. (2015). Why people are in a generally good mood. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 19(3), 235-256.
- Diener, E. (2000). Subjective well-being: The science of happiness and a proposal for a national index. *American psychologist*, 55(1), 34.
- Diener, E., & Seligman, M. E. (2002). Very happy people. *Psychological science*, 13(1), 81-84.
- Emmons, R. A., & Stern, R. (2013). Gratitude as a psychotherapeutic intervention. *Journal of clinical psychology*, 69(8), 846-855.
- Emmons, R., & McCullough, M. (2003). Counting blessings versus burdens. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 84(2), 377-389.
- Fredrickson, B. L., & Joiner, T. (2002). Positive emotions trigger upward spirals toward emotional well-being. *Psychological science*, 13(2), 172-175.
- Fredrickson, B. L., Mancuso, R. A., Branigan, C., & Tugade, M. M. (2000). The undoing effect of positive emotions. *Motivation and emotion*, 24(4), 237-258.
- Grant, A. M., & Gino, F. (2010). A little thanks goes a long way: Explaining why gratitude expressions motivate prosocial behavior. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 98(6), 946.
- Gruber, J., Mauss, I. B., & Tamir, M. (2011). A dark side of happiness? How, when, and why happiness is not always good. *Perspectives on psychological science*, 6(3), 222-233.
- Hanson, R. (2009). Mind changing brain changing mind. *Insight Journal, Summer*, 9-15.
- Hendrick, C., & Hendrick, S.S. (2009). Love. *The Oxford Handbook of Positive Psychology* (2ed) Edited by Shane J. Lopez and C.R. Snyder.
- Howell, R. T., Kern, M. L., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2007). Health benefits: Meta-analytically determining the impact of well-being on objective health outcomes. *Health Psychology Review*, 1(1), 83-136.
- Leung, A. K. Y., Maddux, W. W., Galinsky, A. D., & Chiu, C. Y. (2008). Multicultural experience enhances creativity: The when and how. *American psychologist*, 63(3), 169.
- Locke, E. A. (2002). Setting goals for life and happiness. *Handbook of positive psychology*, 522, 299-312.
- Malouff, J. M., & Schutte, N. S. (2017). Can psychological interventions increase optimism? A meta-analysis. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 12(6), 594-604.
- McCullough, M. E., & Witvliet, C. V. (2002). The psychology of forgiveness. *Handbook of positive psychology*, 2, 446-455.
- Myers, D. G. (2000). The funds, friends, and faith of happy people. *American psychologist*, 55(1), 56.
- Murphy, M. J., Mermelstein, L. C., Edwards, K. M., & Gidycz, C. A. (2012). The benefits of dispositional mindfulness in physical health: a longitudinal study of female college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 60(5), 341-348.
- Oishi, S., Graham, J., Kesebir, S., & Galinha, I. C. (2013). Concepts of happiness across time and cultures. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39(5), 559-577.



- Otake, K., Shimai, S., Tanaka-Matsumi, J., Otsui, K., & Fredrickson, B. L. (2006). Happy people become happier through kindness: A counting kindnesses intervention. *Journal of happiness studies*, 7(3), 361-375.
- Peterson, C., & Steen, T. A. (2002). Optimistic explanatory style. *Handbook of positive psychology*, 244-256.
- Quoidbach, J., Mikolajczak, M., & Gross, J. J. (2015). Positive interventions: An emotion regulation perspective. *Psychological Bulletin*, 141(3), 655-693.
- Rudd, M., Vohs, K. D., & Aaker, J. (2012). Awe expands people's perception of time, alters decision making, and enhances well-being. *Psychological science*, 23(10), 1130-1136.
- Salovey, P., Mayer, J. D., Caruso, D., & Yoo, S. H. (2009). The positive psychology of emotional intelligence. In S. J. Lopez & C. R. Snyder (Eds.), *Oxford library of psychology. Oxford handbook of positive psychology* (p. 237–248). Oxford University Press.
- Scheier, M. F., & Carver, C. S. (1993). On the power of positive thinking: The benefits of being optimistic. *Current directions in psychological science*, 2(1), 26-30.
- Shapira, L. B., & Mongrain, M. (2010). The benefits of self-compassion and optimism exercises for individuals vulnerable to depression. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 5(5), 377-389.
- Shapiro, S. L., Schwartz, G. E., & Santerre, C. (2002). Meditation and positive psychology. *Handbook of Positive Psychology*, 2, 632-645.
- Walton, G. M. (2014). The new science of wise psychological interventions. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 23(1), 73-82.
- Wood, A. M., Froh, J. J., & Geraghty, A. W. (2010). Gratitude and well-being: A review and theoretical integration. *Clinical psychology review*, 30(7), 890-905.

ONLINE ARTICLES:

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/01/theres-more-to-life-than-being-happy/266805/>
- <https://www.leawaters.com/blog/how-to-spot-your-childs-strengths-these-3-indicators-can-help>
- https://ggia.berkeley.edu/practice/loving_kindness_meditation
- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/between-cultures/201805/in-helping-others-you-help-yourself>
- <https://www.health.harvard.edu/topics/positive-psychology/all>

VIDEOS:

- https://www.ted.com/talks/robert_waldinger_what_makes_a_good_life_lessons_from_the_longest_study_on_happiness/recommendations/140459
- https://www.ted.com/talks/martin_seligman_the_new_era_of_positive_psychology?language=en#t-1335298
- https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_the_surprising_science_of_happiness
- Greater Good Science Center: Positive Emotions Open Our Mind <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7dFDHzV36>
- Want to be happy? Be grateful | David Steindl-Rast <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtBsI3jOYRQ>
- Taoism: The concept of Flow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtGtqmC5wU4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EM45CpeQb4>
- <https://www.hbermanlab.com/episode/dr-laurie-santos-how-to-achieve-true-happiness-using-science-based-protocols>



IES PARIS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Your academics are a priority, and regular class attendance class is mandatory, respectful, and essential to academic success. Being absent from class will prevent you from maximizing your learning and will negatively affect your participation grade.

Lateness

Please arrive on time for each class meeting. Arriving late for class is disruptive for faculty members and students alike and will prevent you from maximizing your learning.

- 0 to 15 minutes = late
- Over 15 minutes = 1 absence

If you arrive late 3 times, it will be counted as an absence.

Absences

If you must be absent, please email both your professor and the academic team as soon as possible (mfedon@iesabroad.org) and (emaines@iesabroad.org). Absences for medical reasons and/or emergencies will be considered excused, but justification will be required. In this case, we will need:

- a *certificat médical*,
- from a French doctor,
- must be submitted within 24 hours of the absence,
- or proof of upcoming medical appointment.

If you are absent for an exam, presentation, or other graded in-class assignment, you must provide justification for the absence, or you will receive an automatic F.

Our attendance policy allows each student to miss one 3h course and two 1.5h class sessions without it affecting the final grade of the class. Above that, your final grade will be lowered. The following example is for a 1.5h class:

Final grade: A-
1 unexcused absence: A-
2 unexcused absences: A-
3 unexcused absences: B+
4 unexcused absences: B

And so on...

For any and all absences students are required to fill out the **ABSENCE FORM**, which can be found using the following link:
<https://airtable.com/appwRSChoi8XeQUhz/shrkeAL2VXGdy1RH5>

Any documentation FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE must be uploaded to this platform.