

January 24, 2002

204 Moreland Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97333

Dear Dr. Gillis:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter on behalf of Dr. Bob Uttl. I am writing this letter to the psychology department, as I would like for it to be put in his permanent file. I would like for this letter to be included in his tenure file as well. I have been a student of Dr. Uttl's in both Psychology Research Methods, and Psychometrics. He also offered me a position doing research in his lab, which I eagerly participated in for 9 months.

As a teacher, Dr. Uttl is well prepared and organized. He has a very helpful web page where he posts all relevant class information. He also creates a listserv for his classes, which serves as a forum for class questions and reminders. In class he uses clear overheads to take notes from, which are also posted for our convenience on the class web site. His exams are relevant to the lectures he gives. He uses creative ways to get students involved in what they are studying. For example, in research methods he had the class engage in a small research project. We collected information, entered and analyzed the data, then wrote a paper about it. I thought this really gave us an idea of how research methods apply in the real world. In psychometrics, he gave us an option to actually write a questionnaire and see how it panned out. We were also given the opportunity to write a multiple-choice test for the class. I think both of these assignments gave students a new perspective on writing tests. I found it challenging and very beneficial. I am more aware of the process that goes into designing a questionnaire than I would have been if he had merely lectured on it. I find that Dr. Uttl is very knowledgeable in his field and finds interesting way to relay that knowledge to his students.

He is a dedicated teacher and will spend as much time with his students as they need. He will stay after class time, and set up meetings almost any day of the week to answer questions. In both classes I had with Dr. Uttl, he frequently would stay after class for an hour or more helping students with their projects. I felt that Dr. Uttl was always concerned with each student and made time for everyone. I know that Dr. Uttl spent at least 1-2 hours a week outside of class with just me helping improve my projects. I feel that I learned a great amount of information in both of Dr. Uttl's classes. I think the greatest thing he has done for me is challenged me to think on my own.

In Dr. Uttl's lab, he went far and above merely teaching me the research task at hand. He holds regular lab meetings where we discuss current issues in psychology. He also broadened my knowledge about other world events in the news. He teaches computer skills including SPSS. He worked with me to write programs in SPSS, which will be valuable in graduate school. We worked on resumes, applying to

graduate school, and scholarships. While I was in the lab I received the D. B. DeLoach scholarship award. This was a direct result of Dr. Uttl's extra effort to provide this opportunity for me. He has even volunteered to help me apply for the NSF scholarship. This is quite a time commitment for him, which he gladly offered.

In closing, I would like to restate that my opinion is that Dr. Uttl is an excellent teacher and researcher. He is able to be an effective teacher using a variety of methods. He is very talented at engaging undergraduates in research and teaching them valuable skills. I feel that he is a great asset to the Oregon State University Psychology Department.

Sincerely,



Melissa Satterwhite
Senior in Psychology, OSU

Cc: Sabah U. Randhawa, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
George R. Holdren, Vice Provost of Research
Dr. Bob Uttl, Psychology Professor