

Psyc 4341 – Personality Theories

SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

Course Information:

PSYC 4341.060—Personality Theories

Instructor Information:

Alma Bluesummers, MS

Office Hours: See Canvas announcement for instructor and TA office hours/links

Email: abluesummers@uttyler.edu

Modality: Online

Course Catalog Description:

Students will study various theories of personality. The theories covered in this course will include those that originate from a number of important traditions in psychology (viz., analytic, phenomenological, field, psychometric, biophysical, and behavioristic). Factors that shape personality and the forces that help people behave consistently from one situation to the next will be critically examined. Students will learn how to identify and explain personality characteristics and their functions in a person's life.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of this course, the successful student will:

Achieve content knowledge of how, when, and why different personality characteristics develop, as well as how these characteristics influence a person across his or her lifespan. The student will also develop skills to critically read, analyze, and interpret research findings in psychology, and to apply those theories to real-world experiences. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the scientific study of how and why personality influences behavior, cognition, emotion, motivation, perception, and values. The format of the course is online lecture notes, online videos and activities, and writing projects such that students will have an opportunity to actively engage the material covered in the course.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Identify, explain, apply, and analyze theories of personality.
2. Identify, explain, apply, and analyze the history of different personality theories and their founding contributors.
3. Identify, explain, apply, and analyze how different personality characteristics influence a person's life.
4. Apply critical thinking about research associated with personality.

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT:

5.0 Social: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in clinical and social psychology.

5.1 Assessment: Students in PSYC 4341: Personality Theories will take 12 exams comprised of items related to personality theories. The instructor will score the exam. 50% of students to achieve a 70% or higher on the last of these exams.

Evaluation and Grading:

Quizzes: Quizzes will be completed online. There will be **twelve non-cumulative quizzes** administered online throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth **29 points** for a total of **348 points**. Quizzes cover the assigned readings and lecture material for that week. In the event that you miss one of the regularly-scheduled online quizzes, you will be given an opportunity to replace it by taking an online **cumulative final quiz** at the end of the semester. Only those students who have missed a regularly-scheduled quiz will be allowed to take the cumulative final quiz. Grades will be posted immediately after completing each exam. Emails to the instructor or TAs with questions about course content will receive replies within an hour or two.

Discussion Board Instructions

Each week, you will participate in an online discussion board to reflect on the assigned readings and lectures. The purpose is to encourage critical thinking, application of theories, and peer-to-peer learning.

Requirements:

1. **Initial Post**
 - Length: ~250 words
 - Content: Respond to the weekly prompt provided by the instructor.
 - Integration: Reference course readings or lecture material (cite informally, e.g., "according to Chapter 4...").

- Deadline: Submit by **Friday at 11:59 PM (CT)**.

2. Peer Response

- Length: ~100 words
- Content: Reply to at least one classmate's post with a substantive comment (agree/disagree with explanation, add an example, raise a thoughtful question).
- Deadline: Submit by **Sunday at 11:59 PM (CT)**.

Grading (10 points per week):

- 6 points = Quality of initial post (meets length, engages with prompt, ties to readings/lectures).
- 3 points = Quality of peer response (substantive and respectful, not just "I agree").
- 1 point = Timeliness (posted by deadlines).

Late Work: Posts made after the deadlines will not receive credit, as discussions depend on timely participation.

Expectations for Conduct:

- Write respectfully and professionally.
- Engage with differing viewpoints thoughtfully.
- Academic honesty applies: all posts must be your own work.

Grading Details:

Component	Quantity Points Each Total Points		
Quizzes	12	29	348
Discussion Board Reflections	13	10	130
Total Possible	—	—	478

Letter Grade Point Range

A	430–478
B	382–429
C	334–381
D	286–333
F	< 286

Required Texts:

Shiraev, E. (2017). *Personality Theories*. New York: Sage.

Textbook Website:

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/personality/book270930>

Free Textbook: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uttyler/detail.action?docID=6403174>

Class Meeting Schedule:

This course is completely online. There are no face-to-face meetings for the class. Instead, the schedule below describes reading assignments and learning activities that are to be completed each week of the course. The **discussion and quiz for each week must be submitted online by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of the week during which each module is scheduled**. For example, the discussion and quiz for Module 2 must be completed and submitted no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 7, 2025.

Drop Date:

Check with the registrar for the semester drop dates.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 25 – Aug 31)

- **Topics:** Course Introduction / Orientation
- **Reading:** Chapter 1 – Introduction
- **Discussion Board:** Introduce yourself + respond to “How do you define personality in everyday life?”
- **Quiz:** None

Week 2 (Sep 1 – Sep 7)

- **Topics:** Scientific Foundations of Personality
- **Reading:** Chapter 2
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 1 Due Sep 7**

Week 3 (Sep 8 – Sep 14)

- **Topics:** Research Methods in Personality
- **Reading:** Chapter 3
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 2 Due Sep 14**

Week 4 (Sep 15 – Sep 21)

- **Topics:** Psychoanalytic Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 4
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 3 Due Sep 21**

Week 5 (Sep 22 – Sep 28)

- **Topics:** New Wave of the Psychoanalytic Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 5
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 4 Due Sep 28**

Week 6 (Sep 29 – Oct 5)

- **Topics:** Behavioral–Learning Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 6
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 5 Due Oct 5**

Week 7 (Oct 6 – Oct 12)

- **Topics:** Trait Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 7
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 6 Due Oct 12**

Week 8 (Oct 13 – Oct 19)

- **Topics:** Cognitive Tradition

- **Reading:** Chapter 8
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 7 Due Oct 19**

Week 9 (Oct 20 – Oct 26)

- **Topics:** Humanistic Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 9
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 8 Due Oct 26**

Week 10 (Oct 27 – Nov 2)

- **Topics:** Developmental Tradition
- **Reading:** Chapter 10
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 9 Due Nov 2**

Week 11 (Nov 3 – Nov 9)

- **Topics:** Gender Domain
- **Reading:** Chapter 11
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 10 Due Nov 9**

Week 12 (Nov 10 – Nov 16)

- **Topics:** Clinical Domain
- **Reading:** Chapter 12
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 11 Due Nov 16**

Week 13 (Nov 17 – Nov 23)

- **Topics:** Adjustment Domain
- **Reading:** Chapter 13
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 12 Due Nov 23**

Week 14 (Nov 24 – Nov 30)

- **Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class, No Assignments)**

Week 15 (Dec 1 – Dec 7)

- **Topics:** Personality Theories in the 21st Century
- **Reading:** Chapter 14
- **Discussion Board and Quiz 13 Due Dec 7**

Finals Week (Dec 8 – Dec 13)

- **Cumulative Make-Up Final Exam** (only for students who missed a quiz)

Dates and assignments may be subject to change. Announcements will be made via Canvas.

Policy on Generative AI Tools (e.g., ChatGPT)

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT can be valuable for brainstorming, exploring perspectives, and refining ideas. However, they also raise important concerns about academic integrity and critical thinking. In this course, you may use AI tools **only in the following ways**:

- **Permitted Uses**
 - Brainstorming or generating possible approaches to discussion prompts or assignments
 - Clarifying difficult concepts or summarizing readings (as a study aid, not a substitute)
 - Checking grammar, clarity, or style in your own writing
- **Prohibited Uses**
 - Submitting AI-generated text as your own original work (e.g., discussion board posts, quiz responses, or assignments)
 - Using AI to produce full drafts of assignments or assessments
 - Relying on AI in place of engaging with assigned readings, lectures, or discussions
- **Disclosure Requirement**

If you use an AI tool in a permitted way, you must include a brief **AI Usage Note** at the end of your work (e.g., “*Used ChatGPT to brainstorm examples of trait theory applications*”). If you used a specific prompt, you should include the prompt as well.
- **Academic Integrity**

Any use of AI that violates the above rules will be considered academic misconduct, just as plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration would be. If you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is appropriate, ask the instructor before submitting your work.

University Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. **Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.**

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions or exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i.

“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned • or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any • course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test

- key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or • computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit. iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)