

Syllabus

Course Information:

PSYC 3315.061 Positive Psychology

Spring 2026

Online – Virtual

No prerequisite courses

Instructor Information: Amy C, Hagan, M.S., LPA-IP

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 12:00PM - 1:00PM and 6:00PM - 7:00PM (or request an appointment time, if needed)

E-mail: ahagan@uttyler.edu (emails are typically answered within 24 hours. If I have not responded within 36 hours, please send the email again. It is never my intention to ignore an email. However, they sometimes get buried, or there is a lag time in an email actually being delivered to my mailbox.)

Course Catalog Description:

This course is intended to introduce students to the study of Positive Psychology, the scientific study of optimal human functioning. Positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning, and accomplishments will be related to well-being.

Student Learning Outcomes & Assessments:

As a result of taking this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the 5 pillars of well-being: PERMA
2. Identify factors that promote and factors that work against optimal human functioning
3. Identify factors that contribute to or detract from happiness and/or well-being
4. Identify components leading to positive health and wellness
5. Identify social and cultural influences on optimal human functioning
6. Contrast the Broaden and Build model with flight, fight or freeze.
7. Identify the components of empathy, compassion, and altruism and the impact of each

8. Describe successful aging and generativity and identify the factors that promote each
9. Identify some factors that promote loving relationships and well-being
10. Identify factors that lead to excellence and creativity.
11. Articulate the role of purpose in promoting optimal human functioning

Evaluation and Grading:

Canvas Activities	320 points (8 activities/40 points each)
Midterm	220 points (March 23-27)
Final Exam	260 points (April 20 - 24)
Paper	200 points (April 24)
Total possible points:	1000 points

A = 920 to 1000 points; B = 820 to 919; C = 700 to 819; D = 650 to 699 F = 649 or less.

Exams: The tests will be in multiple-choice and short answer format.

Teaching Strategies:

Discussion Boards:

- There will be eight ASSIGNMENTS that must be addressed on the discussion board.
- The time required to complete assignment varies, so I recommend reviewing the assignment early and planning your time accordingly.
- To earn points in this class you **MUST** complete the task during the assigned time, and for maximum points you must follow the instructions given in the description of the assignment. You will receive full credit if you complete all of the described requirements for each assignment.
- It's important to know that after the first introductory discussion **you DO NOT need to respond** to the postings of your classmates. In this class these assignments are offered in the discussion board format to allow those who are interested in reading others' responses to do so. You can add words of encouragement to others if you have some to offer, but it is NOT required and is not part of the assignment. (I sometimes assign extra credit for unusually rich answers to assignments though.)

- Discussion Boards will typically be graded *within three days* of the closing of the assignment.

Required Text, Materials/Supplies, and Related Readings:

Both required texts are available in e-format through the library. Links to the required texts are in the announcements section of this course.

Lopez, S. J., Pedrotti, J. T., & Snyder, C. R. (2019) Positive Psychology: The Scientific and Practical Explorations of Human Strengths, 5th edition. ISBN 1071819259.

Frankl, V. (19XX) Man's Search for Meaning. (You can choose any version of the book, there are several. Insert the proper publication date for your reference page on your reflection paper. You can also listen to it and include time stamps, or read and include location stamps if there are no page numbers.)

NOTE: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Policies:

Cheating on exams, and the paper is **expressly forbidden**. Do not use any notes, or powerpoints, notecards, or ANY prompts while taking the two exams. Please review the academic dishonesty policies of the University of Texas at Tyler. Do not use any portion of a paper you or anyone else wrote in your Frankl Reflection paper. Plagiarism or using portions of (or all of) a paper for two separate assignments is called self-plagiarism and will result in a failing grade on the assignment, and possibly the class.

Timely completion of assignments is very important in this course. If you are unable to complete an assignment by its deadline you **MUST** send an email **prior to missing the assignment**, unless there is an emergency and you are physically or mentally unable to contact the instructor in advance. Examples of an excused absence would be health related and should be accompanied by a doctor's note *when possible* (either for yourself, a partner, or a dependent family member), or another emergency outside of your control.

Important Dates for Readings and tests:

*Please note: The PowerPoints should serve as a good summary, but it's recommended that you read/skim each chapter first, then review the PowerPoints. The chapters in the books are interesting, so skimming first, then reading through the PowerPoints will make remembering the material much easier. **Each test will cover the material covered prior to the test, plus any basic building blocks for the class. Although the FINAL EXAM is***

comprehensive I will provide a thorough PowerPoint review. If you study the PowerPoint you should do well on the final exam.

Topical Outline and Calendar:

DATE:	Read for class	Topic We Will cover
03/02/2026		Introduction to Positive Psychology
	CHs 1 & 2	Eastern & Western Perspectives
	Chapter 3	Classifications and Measures
	Chapter 4	The Role of Culture
	Chapter 6	Principles of Pleasure
03/23 - 3/27	Review!!!	MIDTERM EXAM (22%)
	Chapter 7	Emotional Experiences
	Chapter 9	Wisdom & Courage
	Chapter 10	Mindfulness, Flow, & Spirituality
	Chapter 11	Empathy and Egotism
	Chapter 12	Attachment, Love & Flourishing
	Chapter 15	Religion, Spirituality & Well-Being
	Positive Health PowerPoint	
04/24/2026	Man's Search for Meaning Paper Due! (See Assignment)	
04/20 - 4/24	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM (26%)	

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> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

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 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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.), 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.

"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.

“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.

“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. 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)

Psychology B.S./B.A. Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the undergraduate program in Psychology is to provide students with a demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the science of behavior and the mind, including content in Memory and Thinking; Sensory and Behavioral Neuroscience; Developmental Psychology; Clinical and Abnormal Psychology; Social Psychology; Psychological Measurement and Methodology. We seek to prepare students for postgraduate education or a wide variety of employment settings and careers.

Psychology B.S./B.A. Program Learning Outcomes:

1.0 Memory and Thinking: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in learning and cognition.

2.0 Sensory and Behavioral Neuroscience: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in perception, sensory, physiology, comparative, and ethology.

3.0 Developmental Psychology: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in developmental psychology.

4.0 Clinical and Abnormal Psychology: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in clinical and abnormal psychology.

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

6.0 Psychological Measurement and Methodology: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in measurement and methodology.

Disclaimer: The instructor may amend this syllabus to meet the evolving needs of the students and or University, Department, or any other identified entities. Changes will be provided to students in writing and/or via the Canvas site.

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the COVID-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

