

Psyc 4341 (2nd 7 Weeks) – Personality Theories

SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

Course Information:

PSYC 4341.060—Personality Theories

Instructor Information:

Eric Stocks, Ph.D.

Office: HPR 255 (Psychology Research Lab II)

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

Email: estocks@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 seven 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. Your course grade will be based on **seven non-cumulative quizzes**, each worth 50 points, and weekly writing assignments worth 10 points each. 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.

Writing Assignments: The writing assignments, called “reflection papers,” will be submitted online. Student will be required to complete a brief reflection paper each week. Reflection papers are brief (approximately 250 word) written assignments that contain three parts. The first part is to select and define a theory or concept from the readings for that week's module. The second part is for you to translate the concept or theory into language you would use to explain it to a friend. The third part will be to supply an example from your own life of the concept in action, and to use that concept to explain how and why that example occurred. The reflection papers are to be submitted online by 5:00 pm on the Sunday of each module (see dates below) and are worth 10 points each

The purpose of these reflection papers is simple: (a) writing about key concepts in the course will help you better understand the course material, (b) it will also give you a great deal of practice seeing the world in terms of psychological principles relevant to the

course, and (c) writing the reflection papers will help you prepare for each quiz. Grades on writing projects will be posted within 24 hours of the due date for each assignment.

Grading Details:

Quizzes	Reflection Paper	Course Grade
7 quizzes @ 50 points each Total quiz points = 350 points	7 reflection papers @ 10 points each Total reflection paper Points = 70 points	<u>Total Points Possible = 420</u> A = 378-420 B = 336-377 C = 294-335 D = 252-293 F = less than 252

Required Texts:

Shirae, 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 **reflection paper and quiz for each week must be submitted online by 5:00 pm on the Sunday of the week during which each module is scheduled**. For example, the reflection paper and quiz for Module 1 must be completed and submitted no later than 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Drop Date:

Note that the drop date for 7-week courses differs from the drop date for regular semester course. Check with the Registrar for the drop date for your 7-week course.

Course Schedule

Module 1: Basics of Personality

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
3/2	Introduction	Chapter 1		
	Scientific Foundations of Personality	Chapter 2		
				Due 3/8

No Class March 9-13 for Spring Break

Module 2: Research Methods and the Psychoanalytic Tradition

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
3/16	Research Methods	Chapter 3		
	Psychoanalytic Tradition	Chapter 4		
				Due 3/22

Module 3: New Wave and Behavioral-Learning Tradition

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
3/23	New Wave of the Psychoanalytic Tradition	Chapter 5		
	The Behavioral-Learning Tradition	Chapter 6		
				Due 3/29

Module 4: Trait and Cognitive Traditions

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
3/30	The Trait Tradition	Chapter 7		
	The Cognitive Tradition	Chapter 8		
				Due 4/5

Module 5: Humanistic and Developmental Traditions

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
4/6	The Humanistic Tradition	Chapter 9		
	The Developmental Tradition	Chapter 10		
				Due 4/12

Module 6: Gender and Clinical Domains

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
4/13	The Gender Domain	Chapter 11		
	The Clinical Domain	Chapter 12		
				Due 4/19

Module 7: Personality Adjustment and 21st Century Personality Theories

Week with Monday on ...	Topic of Lecture (Online PowerPoint Slides with Video Lecture)	Reading Assignment	Reflection paper (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)	Quiz (submit <u>online</u> by 5:00 pm on the <u>Sunday</u> of this week)
4/20	The Adjustment Domain	Chapter 13		
	Personality Theories in the 21 st Century	Chapter 14		
				Due 4/26 – Note, this is one day after end of term, but grades are due to the university a few days after this.

Cumulative Make-Up Final Exam (Only for people who miss a regular quiz)

Date	
4/26	Covers material from all 7 modules

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)