

## **PSYC 4341: Personality Theories - Online Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** Johnathon Thomas, School Psychologist/Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student  
[jthomas40@patriots.uttler.edu](mailto:jthomas40@patriots.uttler.edu)

**Best way to contact me:** The best way to contact me is through email. Please put your name and class number in the subject line. I will try to respond within 24 hours but understand that if the email is sent Friday evening or on the weekend there may be no response till Monday.

**Office Hours:** This is an asynchronous online course, so there will be no on-campus or online meetings. But office hours will be available via ZOOM. Each Monday, I will be available from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm for virtual office hours. Link will be made available on Canvas. It is best to email ahead but no appointment is needed to meet with me during office hours. Just wait in the waiting room until the instructor lets you in.

**Course Catalog Description:** Students will study various theories of personality. The theories covered in this course will include those that originate from several important traditions in psychology (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:**

- 1) 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 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.
- 2) Critical Thinking Skills (includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information). Students will be able to apply their critical thinking skills throughout this class.
- 3) Communication Skills (includes effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Students will be able to apply their communication skills through expression of ideas from personality psychology in online group discussions.
- 4) Social Responsibility (includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities) in which the historic interactions of personality psychology may focus prejudice, cultural differences, and shortcomings that are still being addressed in the field.

### **Required Textbook:**

We will be using an Open Textbook provided by **Chris Allen** from **Portland State University Library**. This is being done to reduce the cost to you. There is no physical copy of the textbook, but it will be accessible in three different ways.

1. Each chapter will be linked on canvas and available during the week it is assigned. You can read it through canvas and complete questions or videos that are within the text.
2. You will be able to access it through an internet browser with the following link, <https://pdx.pressbooks.pub/thebalanceofpersonality/>. There are extra chapters that we will not be covering so pay attention to what chapters are assigned each week. Feel free to read ahead or look at chapters that are not assigned for the course.
3. You will be able to download a PDF version of the book which can be read through a pdf viewer. This version may have some limitations on the interactive content but it is searchable and may be useful during quizzes.

If you are having any difficulties with accessing the text, please contact me so that we can fix that quickly.

### **Course Design:**

This is an asynchronous online course. Asynchronous learning happens on your own schedule. **There are no online or on-campus meetings for this course.** You can access all course materials, including readings, videos, presentations, assignments and quizzes via Canvas and complete them on your own schedule. But please keep in mind that you must meet the expected deadlines for each activity.

This class is divided into fifteen weekly modules. Each module contains one chapter. At the end of each chapter, there is a chapter quiz. For each module, there will also be discussion board, an assignment, or both. For each discussion board, you will submit an initial post to the discussion prompt by Friday of the Module week and then respond to two of your classmates' posts by Sunday of the module week.

Each week on Monday the class will start a new module. Within the week, students will manage their time to complete the required assignments that are assigned for the week by **Friday at 11:59 pm!**

Please make sure you have logged into Canvas and reviewed the informational messages explaining the workings of this course. I will make course announcements weekly to help you keep track of what assignments are due and inform you of any important updates within the course.

### **Assignments and point values:**

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

Assignment	Number of Assignments	Points per assignment	Highest possible points in total
------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------------

Assignments	8	25 points	200 points
Quiz	15	40 points	600 points
Discussion Board	7	50 points	350 points
Extra Credit	1	45 points	45 points
<b>Highest possible points in this class: 1150</b>			

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 1029 - 1150 points
B = 914 - 1028 points
C = 799 - 913 points
D = 684 - 798 points
F = 0-683 points

**Late Work and Make-Up Exams:** If you miss a graded course requirement for an excused reason (such as a doctor's documented illness, death/funeral, evacuation for a natural disaster, university-related activity, religious observance, etc.), I may accept your late work without any penalty. You will be required to provide an acceptable form of documentation for missing the deadline. That documentation must be submitted via email within 48 hours of missing the course requirement. Please keep in mind that all assignments and tests in the course are available for a window of time not less than 5 days, so due dates are firm if you do not have an acceptable form of documentation.

### **Graded Course Requirements Information:**

**Assignments:** For each module there may be an assignment that will need to be completed by Sunday. Each assignment is an opportunity to use knowledge from the coursework. Assignments should be completed and uploaded by midnight each Sunday of the Module. Note that last week of the course the assignment will be due Friday at midnight.

**Quizzes:** For each chapter there will be a quiz. You will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete each quiz. Quizzes must be completed by midnight on each Friday of the module week. The lowest quiz grade will be replaced with the highest quiz grade. If there are any problems or complications with the quizzes, please contact me to help resolve them.

**Discussion Boards:** For each module there may be a discussion board that will need to be completed. Discussion boards consist of two parts:

- (1) You will submit an initial post and respond to the discussion prompt. Your response must integrate concepts that you learn from the readings and videos and show your critical thinking by discussing your own thoughts, analysis and experiences. You must submit your initial post each week by **Friday**. **You will get up to 30 points for your initial post.**
- (2) Then, you return to the discussion to comment on at least two classmates' posts. You expand on a classmate's comments in a value-adding, topic-related way. Reply posts cannot be one-liners, off-topic posts, vague statements, unsupported opinions, inadequate explanations or simply say, "I agree" or "good job." You must submit your two responses each week by **Sunday**. **You will get up to 10 points for each response.** You can respond to more than two classmates, but you will get points only for your best two responses.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** There will be an opportunity for extra credit that will be made available during the semester. This opportunity will require more effort than one of the regular weekly assignments, but it is worth half a letter grade. It will be due by midnight of Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week	Due Date	Chapters	Assignments
1	January 17 <sup>th</sup> January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 1  <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion: Introductions
2	January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 1: Personality Traits	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 2  <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board
3	January 31 <sup>st</sup> February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapter 2: Personality Stability	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3  <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
4	February 7 <sup>th</sup> February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3: Personality Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 4  <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
5	February 14 <sup>th</sup> February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4: Psychodynamic Theories	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 5  <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board

6	February 21 <sup>st</sup> February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 5: Carl Jung	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board
7	February 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Biological Theories	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
8	March 7 <sup>th</sup> March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6: Humanistic and Existential Theory	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
9	March 14 <sup>th</sup> March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 8: Self-Regulation and Conscientiousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
10		Spring Break	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	March 28 <sup>th</sup> March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7: The Nature-Nurture Question	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board
12	April 4 <sup>th</sup> April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9: Personality Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/>
13	April 11 <sup>th</sup> April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10: Happiness – Subjective Well-Being	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board
14	April 18 <sup>th</sup> April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Culture, Race and Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
15	April 25 <sup>th</sup> April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 12: Eastern Philosophies	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment
16	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Finals Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Credit

## University Policies and Information:

**Withdrawing from Class** - Students you are allowed to withdraw ([Links to an external site.](#)) (drop) from this course through the University's Withdrawal Portal ([Links to an external site.](#)). Texas law prohibits students 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 other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule ([Links to an external site.](#)). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs ([Links to an external site.](#)) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

**Final Exam Policy:** Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or to NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

**Grade Appeal Policy:** - UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the Dean of the College offering that course who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the Registrar's Form Library. ([Links to an external site.](#))

**Disability/Accessibility Services:** The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the [SAR Portal \(Links to an external site.\)](https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/) (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> (Links to an external site.)) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the [SAR webpage \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or call 903.566.7079.

**Military Affiliated Students:** UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with me if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make me aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. I am willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at [MVSC@uttyler.edu](mailto:MVSC@uttyler.edu), or via phone at 903.565.5972.

**Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

**FERPA** - UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3 \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

### **COVID Guidance**

*Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:* Students are ***strongly encouraged*** to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). 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 should stay at home and notify their faculty. 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](mailto: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.

**Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 - 501 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)).

**Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students 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>. (Links to an external site.)

**UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto: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)

**CEP Vision and Mission and Program Standards:**

*Vision:* The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

*Mission:* The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contribute to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding, and communication; and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.