

Course Syllabus Psychology 307: Personality Psychology

Summer 2021 Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 – 11:50am, Remote

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Office Hours:	Tuesdays 9am – 10am	Thursdays 9am - 10am
Location:	Zoom (990 5034 5778)	Zoom (970 6841 3659)

Course Description

This course is an intensive introduction to the scientific study of human personality and is organized around three broad questions: 1) How do people differ?, 2) What are the processes and mechanisms underlying these personality differences? 3) What are the implications of these differences in people's lives? In addressing these questions, we will consider both classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches to personality and focus on developing a dynamic understanding of human personality within its biological, social, and cultural contexts.

We find that most students have spent considerable time thinking and talking about personality in their everyday lives before considering it as a topic of scientific study. In fact, many early theories about personality drew heavily from fields outside of psychology, including philosophy and the arts (especially literature and theater). We will touch on some of these perspectives throughout the course, mainly in an effort to contextualize our primary focus: current and historical approaches to the scientific study of individual differences in psychological behavior (thoughts, feelings, actions, and motivations).

Course Objectives

The aims of this course are to familiarize you with the concepts, theories, and methods of social psychology and to help you recognize the influence of the environment on behavior, thoughts, and feelings.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course you should:

- be familiar with the major theoretical frameworks in personality, both modern and historical.

- have a broad appreciation for the major themes of modern personality research, including some of the current challenges and controversies in the field.
- be aware of the implications and applications of theories of human nature and the methods covered in the course.
- have skills in reading, evaluating, and synthesizing research on the subject matter of this course, that can be applied to other subject matters as well.
- be able to communicate clearly and effectively about psychological topics, especially personality, based on understanding the strengths/limitations of empirical evidence

Estimated Student Workload: When you complete this course, you will earn four credits toward your degree. Four credits is the equivalent of 120 hours of work across the term, or 15 hours per week for 8 weeks.

- At the beginning of each week, lecture videos will be posted to Canvas (~**2 hours**).
- During class time on Tuesdays (unless otherwise stated on the syllabus), you will be asked to complete a discussion board activity on Canvas (~**2 hours**). If you are unable to complete the discussion board during class time on Tuesdays, please email us as soon as possible.
- During class time on Thursdays (unless otherwise stated on the syllabus), you are invited to a personality discussion meetup on Zoom (~**2 hour**). The virtual meetup will be whatever the class wants it to be. It could end up serving as a time to ask the instructors questions, have in-person discussions with other students, share anecdotes that relate to the class material, talk about any interesting personality scales you have come across, or discuss any other personality-related content that interests you. Attendance at these meetups is *optional*.
- Readings will comprise the majority of your work outside of class (~**5 hours**). For best results, each reading should be completed before watching the associated lecture videos.
- The rest of the hours will go towards preparing for and taking a weekly quiz (~**2 hours**) and preparing for midterm and final exams (~**2 hours**).

Required Reading

Text: Funder, D. C. (2019). *The personality puzzle* (8th ed.). New York: Norton. ISBN: 978-0393-42178-1. (Available at the Duck Store).

Course Requirements

Your grade for this class will be based on 3 components.

1. **Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam on Canvas 10-11:50am on the Thursday of Week 4 and Week 8. The exams will include questions taken from the lectures and readings. It is impossible to cover all of the information contained in the textbook during lecture, so doing well on the exams will require that you keep up with the readings as well. The exams will require that you be able to apply the general principles from class to novel, specific

examples. Exams will contain approximately 50 multiple choice questions and 1-2 free response questions. More details will be provided closer to the exam. The exams are open book and open note. In other words, you can consult your notes and the textbook during the exam. The final exam will not be cumulative.

2. Quizzes: It's important to keep up with the readings and lecture videos to get the most out of this course, so you will be tested with a weekly quiz available on Canvas. The quizzes will be made available after class on Thursday and will be due Sunday at 11:59pm. The quizzes will be 20 questions and will be timed (30 minutes or 1.5 minutes per question). You may use your notes and the textbook during the quiz.

3. Discussion boards: On Tuesdays at 10am, unless otherwise stated on the syllabus, a discussion board will become available on Canvas. For the discussion board assignments, you will write one response to the prompt (about 100 words) and respond to two of your classmates (about 60 words each). The discussion board activities should take you about 1-2 hours. Of the 10 points of credit per activity, 4 points will be rewarded for the original post and 3 points for each of the two responses. No points will be rewarded if responses are disrespectful or dismissive to other students in the class. The discussion board will expire at the end of the class period (11:50am). If you are unable to complete the discussion board during class time on Tuesdays, please email us as soon as possible.

Extra credit: You can earn up to 3% extra credit by participating in 3 credits of research through the Human Subjects Pool. You will receive 1% extra credit for every 1 credit of participation completed. Note that credit will not round up, so 1.5 credit would earn 1% extra credit, 2.75 credit would earn 2% credit, and so on. Go to <https://uopsych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx> to sign up.

Grading: Your final grade in the course is based on your total points. To summarize:

Exams (2; 110 points each)	= 220 points
Quizzes (6; 20 points each)	= 120 points
<u>Discussion Boards (6; 10 points each)</u>	<u>= 60 points</u>
Total	= 400 points

The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent:

A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%

B+ 87-89.9% C+ 77-79.9% D+ 67-69.9% F 59.9% or below

Please see the psychology department guidelines for a description of the type of achievement that each grade signifies:

<http://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/department-grading-standards/>

Policies

Emailing the Instructors: We are more than happy to help you work through difficult material throughout the course. However, we have other responsibilities to the university that we are attending to when not in class or office hours. We can commit to responding to emails within 24 hours (or 48 hours if you email us between 5pm on Friday and 5pm on Sunday). We will generally respond more quickly if you email us directly (Cameron: ckay@uoregon.edu; Vinita: vvader@uoregon.edu) rather than messaging us through Canvas. Please note that *most questions regarding logistics of this course can be answered by reading the syllabus or consulting the Canvas site.*

Special Accommodations: The UO works to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation, please notify us as soon as possible. If you have a documented disability, please request that a counselor at the Accessible Education Center (uoaec@uoregon.edu, tel. 541-346-1155) send a letter verifying the type of accommodation that is appropriate. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, please see <http://aec.uoregon.edu>.

Cheating/plagiarism: Any form of academic dishonesty, including getting outside help on exams, having others falsify your Zoom attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind are not productive to your learning and therefore will not be tolerated in this class. We will follow all procedures to handle misconduct as outlined by the University. This means that instances of suspected cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the University, and at the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Oregon's conduct code, found at <http://conduct.uoregon.edu>. You are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy. If you have questions about what is considered academic dishonesty for this course, please reach out and ask.

Late/missed assignments: Due dates for each assignment are listed in the schedule below. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior extension has been granted by an instructor. Please reach out beforehand if you feel like you may need an extension for whatever reason.

Diversity and classroom climate: A core value in academia is the free and candid exchange of ideas. To uphold this value, we must make sure that everyone in this class (students and instructors alike) has the opportunity to offer opinions, hear one another's opinions, and make arguments and challenge ideas. That is only possible in an environment of mutual respect. At

times students may disagree with other students, or we may disagree with you, and we expect that you will disagree with us. We believe that all of this can be consistent with, and even promote, the high value we place on intellectual exchange and mutual respect.

We also recognize that we are a group with diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we hope that the subject matter of this course will touch on the lived experiences of people in the class. If you do not feel comfortable participating in the class discussions or believe there is more we could do to promote a more effective learning environment, we urge you to come talk to us. We will always listen to your concerns with respect and open minds and will make adjustments when appropriate.

Land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the University of Oregon is situated on Kalapuya Ili?i; the ancestral territory of the Kalapuya people. As a University, we should honour the traditional stewards of this land and pay respect to the elders, both past and present.

Course Schedule (*readings should be completed before watching lectures)

Week	Topic	Date	Reading	Due
1	Introduction to personality psychology	T 7/20	Textbook Ch 1. The study of the person	
		Th 7/22	Textbook Ch 2. Personality research methods	Virtual personality discussion meetup 1 (optional)
		Su 7/25		Quiz 1 due at 11:59pm
2	Personality assessment and the role of situations	T 7/27	Textbook Ch 3. Personality assessment	Discussion board 1
		Th 7/29	Textbook Ch 4. Persons and situations	Virtual personality discussion meetup 2 (optional)
		Su 8/1		Quiz 2 due at 11:59pm
3	Personality judgements and personality traits	T 8/3	Textbook Ch 5. Personality judgement	Discussion board 2
		Th 8/5	Textbook Ch 6. Traits and types: The Big Five and beyond	Virtual personality discussion meetup 3 (optional)
		Su 8/8		Quiz 3 due at 11:59pm
4	Antagonistic personality traits	T 8/10	Furnham et al. (2013). <i>The Dark Triad of personality: A 10 year review</i> . (Posted to Canvas).	Discussion board 3
		Th 8/12	MIDTERM EXAM 10-11:50am on Canvas	

5	Personality stability and biological approaches	T 8/17	Textbook Ch 7. Personality stability, development, and change.	Discussion board 4
		Th 8/19	Textbook Ch 9. Genetic and evolution: The inheritance of personality	Virtual personality discussion meetup 4 (optional)
		Su 8/22		Quiz 4 due at 11:59pm
6	Cross-cultural personality psychology and personality processes	T 8/24	Textbook Ch 13. Cultural variation in experience, behavior, and personality	Discussion board 5
		Th 8/26	Textbook Ch 14. Personality processes: Learning, motivation, emotion, and thinking	Virtual personality discussion meetup 5 (optional)
		Su 8/29		Quiz 5 due at 11:59pm
7	Personality influences on self and health	T 8/31	Textbook Ch 15. The self: What you know about you.	Discussion board 6
		Th 9/2	Textbook Ch 17. Mental and physical health.	Virtual personality discussion meetup 6 (optional)
		Su 9/5		Quiz 6 due at 11:59pm
8	Personality and Geography	T 9/7	Oishi, S., Talhelm, T., & Lee, M. (2015). Personality and geography: Introverts prefer mountains. <i>Journal of Research in Personality</i> , 58, 55-68.	
		Th 9/9	FINAL EXAM 10-11:50am on Canvas	

Note. This schedule is tentative and subject to change. The instructors will notify you of any changes