



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY



ENG 697(01E), Personality and Second Language Acquisition

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Shelby Miller

Office Location: Hall of Languages, Room #318

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am - 11:30 am (but please make an appointment first!). **I'm flexible.** If the prior days/times do not work for you, just reach out and we'll find a time that works for both of us!

Office Phone: Phone? Psh, let's zoom instead.

Office Fax: Do you really have something to fax to me? Just email it instead.

University Email Address: Shelby.Miller@tamuc.edu

Zoom: Link provided in course shell under "Contact Information & Office Hours"

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: I will respond within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me, please assume I have not received your message and reach out to me again. I may not immediately respond to emails on weekends and holidays.

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meetings – This course is divided into two sections: face-to-face and online. Face-to-face students will meet in person Mondays from 4:30 PM to 7:10 PM in Room 304, David Talbot Hall of Languages. Online students have the flexibility to either join the class live via Zoom (link available in the D2L course shell) or watch the recorded lecture asynchronously later in the week.

Textbook(s) Required: This class does NOT require purchasing a textbook. 🎉👏 Instead, all the learning materials you'll need are provided to you free in the course shell (D2L).

Materials(s) Required: The only required purchase for this course is a CliftonStrengths assessment code, which will not be needed until Week 12.

- **Option 1:** Purchase directly from Gallup for \$25.99 (+tax).

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- **Option 2:** Purchase through Dr. Miller at a discounted rate of \$15.99 (+tax), available through her Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach discount. (*Payments for this option must be submitted via PayPal, Zelle, or Venmo.*)

Note: Feel free to wait until Week 11 to decide which purchasing option works best for you. This will be discussed further in class at that time.

Course Description

This course examines the role of personality traits, such as extraversion, openness, and conscientiousness, in second language acquisition (SLA). Students will explore how individual differences influence language aptitude, motivation, learning strategies, and classroom dynamics, while considering the cultural and contextual factors that shape these relationships. Through critical analysis of research and theoretical frameworks, the course provides insights into designing personality-informed language learning environments and interventions. Ideal for students in applied linguistics, TESOL, or related fields, this course bridges psychology and SLA to enhance understanding and practice.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate major personality theories and their relevance to second language acquisition (SLA).
2. Identify and critically assess the impact of personality traits on language learning processes such as motivation, language aptitude, and learning strategies.
3. Explore how personality traits influence classroom interactions and group dynamics in language learning contexts.
4. Analyze how cultural and contextual factors mediate the relationship between personality traits and SLA outcomes.
5. Apply methodological approaches to study the influence of personality traits on SLA.
6. Propose strategies for incorporating personality-informed practices into language instruction and curriculum design.
7. Critically evaluate current research to contribute to theoretical advancements and practical innovations in SLA and applied linguistics.

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be available on the course site. For the course organization, please check the **course calendar on the last three pages of the syllabus**.

- **Discussions (53.5%):** Online discussions provide students with opportunities to engage with readings and lectures, and share insights with classmates. They serve to foster community, shared learning, and interaction in the class.

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- **Assessments** (11.5%): Students will complete a variety of personality, language learner, and teaching assessments throughout the course. These assessments are designed to promote self-awareness, identify learning and teaching styles, and enhance personal and professional development. Results will be used for reflection, discussion, and application to SLA teaching practices.
- **Assignments** (20%): Students will complete several assignments in relation to course content regarding grammar and social variations. These may be written, verbal (e.g., PowerPoint presents), or visual assignments (e.g., infographic)
- **Final** (15%): The final consisted of an annotated bibliography and research proposal.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 900 - 1000 Points
- B = 800 - 899 Points
- C = 700 - 799 Points
- D = 600 - 699 Points
- F = 0 - 599 Points

Assignment Type	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussions (13)	535	53.5%
Assessments (6)	115	11.5%
Assignments (4)	200	20%
Final (1)	150	15%

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit opportunities in this course.

Grade Bump: Oh no, you finished the semester with an 89%, 79%, 69%, or 59%. You were so close to that next grade! Will the professor round my grade up? Each semester, about 10% of my students find themselves on the cusp of the next grade. These students always have something in common; they either missed assignment(s), worked

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haphazardly on an assignment, and (or) decided not to pursue extra credit opportunities. **You are** responsible for “bumping” your own grade. What does that mean? Take advantage of **every point** through every assignment.

Submitting Assignments

With the exception of finals week, our work week runs from Monday to Monday. Assignments each week are due on the following Monday, and each Monday, a new week/module will be released. All assignments must be submitted to D2L by the designated due date. If an assignment requires submitting a text-based file, files must be either Word documents, PDF, or Google Docs. **No .pages files!** Also, if you are using Google Docs, you must be sure to grant the right sharing/viewing permissions when submitting the link. If I cannot access the file and have to ask for viewing permissions, it will be considered late. If this is a repeated issue, you will not be allowed to submit Google Doc files throughout the rest of the course. If you have technical issues in uploading the assignment to the course site, please contact CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu and email me to notify me of the problem.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Being successful in an online course requires self-discipline and high motivation. In this course, all work will be completed through D2L. Access and follow all course instructions found in the content area of the D2L course. Please note that assignment due dates are crucial. No delayed assignments will be accepted. You should check the course website frequently for assignments, announcements, and discussions. I strongly recommend dedicating set days/times to completing your work and working in advance so that you are always ahead. In order to achieve the outcomes of the course, you will be involved in a number of different activities. It is fundamental to complete all of the readings and activities on time: the discussions, and the assignments. I encourage you to do all the course reading and assignments for each learning module in the order they are presented. Moreover, we are co-constructing our knowledge in the online community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes.

Best Practices

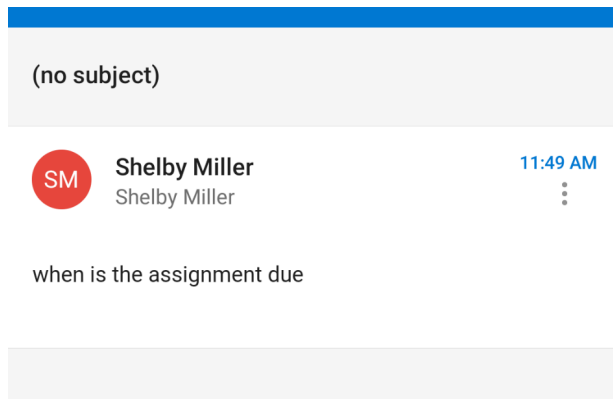
Students who have concerns about this course or the instructor should speak to the instructor about those concerns first. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person to talk to is Dr. Hunter Hayes, Department Head of Literature and Languages. Students should contact him via e-mail at Christian.Hempelmann. If you bypass this chain of command, your concern will be ignored.

Unless stated otherwise the instructor will grade assignments within two weeks, and respond to emails within one business day. Please refer to the syllabus and/or our myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) course shell before sending an email to your instructor. You may not receive a response if your questions are already answered on the syllabus or on myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace).

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Tips for sending emails! When emailing, it's always good to follow the genre conventions of a formal letter. **This includes a subject line stating the name of the class, a greeting ("Hi, Dr. Miller," for example), specific details and explanation in the body of your email, and a closing ("Thank you, Your Name" for example).** Emails should be properly proofread and edited and contain the course number in the subject.

Please, pretty please, don't send me an email like this:



Let's be professional. Each time you send me a new email about a new topic, please compose a new email with a new subject; do not reply to some old email threads unless we discuss the same issue. It can be very confusing and makes it difficult to reply to your emails.

Should you encounter myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments, the following procedure must be followed:

- Report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511. See myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) Technical Support for more details.
- File the problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number.
- Once you have helpdesk ticket number, email the instructor to inform her of the problem and provide her with the helpdesk ticket number.

Your personal computer and internet access problems are not legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) Help Desk. Only myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace)-based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for your browser compatibility before the course begins and take the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) platform.

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Every student needs to

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have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

This syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer Technologies

This class will be delivered completely online using Desire2Learn Brightspace (D2L), the new Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [MyLeo](#). You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. Students are required to have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. If you experience problems in accessing the course site or have other technological difficulties, please contact the CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

- [LMS Requirements](#)
- [LMS Browser Support](#)
- [Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary

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use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. You can also [check out other Brightspace support options](#).

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are responsible for attending class and keeping a log of their attendance. Please note that this means that no excuse will be accepted for failure to comply with the class requirements. No late assignments accepted. Students needing particular attention should notify the instructor during the first week. If you miss a class you are responsible to receive the information you missed or you have to be prepared for surprises.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

With the exception of the final, assignments will be due on Monday each week.

Week	Topics	Assignments	Due
Week 1 1/13-1/20 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Introduction (Brief) History of Personality Psychology	W1. Assessment (Pizza Toppings) W1. Discussion Board	Monday, 1/20
Week 2 1/20-1/27 No Live Class Meeting (University Holiday), Online Work Only	Introduction to Personality Psychology, Trait and Typology Theory <i>Read Chapter 1</i>	W2. Assessment (Big Five/Revised NEO-PI-R) W2. Discussion Board	Monday, 1/27
Week 3 1/27-2/3 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Introduction to Personality Psychology, Trait and Typology Theory continued	W3. Assessment (MBTI) W3. Discussion Board	Monday, 2/3
Week 4 2/3-2/10 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Personality Traits & First Language Use	W4. Assignment (Lexicosemantic Analysis) W4. Discussion Board	Monday, 2/10
Week 5 2/10-2/17 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Culture, Gender, Age, and Context <i>Read Chapter 2</i>	W5. Assignment (Assessment Validity and Reliability) W5. Discussion Board	Monday, 2/17
Week 6 2/17-2/24 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Teachers, Teaching, Classrooms, and Instruction <i>Read Chapter 3</i>	W6. Assignment (Balanced Instruction) W6. Discussion Board	Monday, 2/24

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<p>Week 7 2/24-3/3</p> <p>Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)</p>	<p>Language Learning Styles</p> <p><i>Read Chapter 4</i></p>	<p>W7. Assessment (Learning Styles)</p> <p>W7. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 3/3</p>
<p>Week 8 3/3-3/10</p> <p>No Live Class Meeting, Online Work Only</p>	<p>Linguistics & The Four Language Skills</p> <p><i>Read Chapter 5</i></p>	<p>W8&9. Assignment (TBD)</p> <p>W8&9. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 3/24</p>
<p>Spring Break 3/10-3/16</p>			
<p>Week 9 3/17-3/24</p> <p>Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)</p>	<p>Linguistics & The Four Language Skills continued</p>		
<p>Week 10 3/24-3/31</p> <p>No Live Class Meeting (Dr. Miller at AAAL), Online Work Only</p>	<p>Willingness to Communicate</p> <p><i>Read Chapter 6</i></p>	<p>W10. Assessment (WTC)</p> <p>W10. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 3/31</p>
<p>Week 11 3/31-4/7</p> <p>Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)</p>	<p>Second Language Learning Aptitude</p> <p><i>Read Chapter 7</i></p>	<p>W11. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 4/7</p>
<p>Week 12 4/7-4/14</p> <p>Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)</p>	<p>Introduction to Positive Psychology (& Clifton Strengths)</p> <p><i>Select readings in D2L</i></p>	<p>W12. Assessment (CliftonStrengths)</p> <p>W12. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 4/14</p>
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Positive Psychology and</p>	<p>W13. Discussion Board</p>	<p>Monday, 4/21</p>

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4/14-4/21 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	SLA continued. <i>Select readings in D2L</i>		
Week 14 4/21-4/28 Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Positive Psychology and SLA continued. <i>Select readings in D2L</i>	W14. Discussion Board	Monday, 4/28
Week 15 4/26-5/5 <i>Pending</i> - Live Class (Zoom Optional for Online Students)	Flex Week <i>A week for reviewing material and catching up on missed content.</i>		
Week 16 5/5-5/9 No Live Class Meeting , Online Work Only	Finals	Final (Research Proposal)	Friday, May 9th