PSY 211 (01W): Psychology of Individual Characteristics
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andryce Clinkscales, Ph.D.
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: By appointment
University Email Address: Andryce.Clinkscales@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours, except for weekends and holidays

COURSE INFORMATION

Required textbook:

Jones, J. M., Dovidio, J. F., Vietze, D. L. (1st Edition). The Psychology of Diversity. Wiley.

Additional course materials, such as an electronic version of the syllabus, research articles, case studies, extra readings, and class assignments will be posted on D2L.

THIS COURSE WILL BE MANAGED IN ON ONLINE FORMAT. CHAPTER READINGS, CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ON D2L IN A WEEK-BY-WEEK FORMAT. CLASS ATTENDANCE (VIRTUALLY) IS EXPECTED AND MONITORED. THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE CLASS THAT MEETS SYNCHRONOUSLY. IF NOT ATTENDING (ACTIVE PARTICIPATION ON D2L), STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE NO CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS.

Course Description

This course will examine differences in psychological functioning and the relationship between individual characteristics and the self. This course will include, but is not limited to, topics relating to individual differences, intergroup relations, and the influence of one's own and others' backgrounds for understanding others, one's self, and the world.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and examine the relationship between individual characteristics and the self.
2. Identify and dissect how one's own individual upbringing influences their perception of themselves and the larger world around them.
3. Develop writing skills using APA format including in-text citations and references.
4. Learn to apply knowledge of individual characteristics to their understanding of psychological functioning and its impact.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You should be comfortable with the following:

• Using a word processor (changing font, spell check, formatting, etc.)

• Using email for communication; Sending an email attachment

• Navigating the internet and using an internet search engine

• Using the learning management system (D2L)

• Using Microsoft Word and possibly Power Point

ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE TYPED AND SUBMITTED AS A WORD DOCUMENT (NOT NOTEPAD, PDF, ETC.) UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TURN IN QUALITY WORK (I.E., MEETS COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT AND FREE OF SPELLING ERRORS).

Instructional Methods

This is an online asynchronous course, and all learning content is available via D2L and the textbook. Students are encouraged to check D2L and email on a regular basis.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- Actively engage with the material. Can you define a concept in your own words?
- Actively engage with your peers' posts.
- Use the available study materials in D2L. This includes reading your peers' posts and multiple-choice questions. Study quizzes will also be available for you to take. These will not count toward your grade; rather, they are there to help you learn via the testing effect. Make flashcards. Print out material.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

- Study the materials on a regular basis. Consider the Pomodoro technique. Set aside 20-25 minutes for active study and learning daily.
- Use university resources such as the writing center and library.
- Use outside resources such as time management tools to manage deadlines.
- Do not wait until the last minute to complete deliverables. Life happens.
- I have an open-door policy. If you have a concern, please reach out.

This is a three-credit hour course. Studies indicate that, on average, for every one hour of course credit, students should expect to spend three hours on course work per week, in addition to the 3 hours a week for class time, for a 16-week course. That calculates to 9 hours a week for reading, homework, discussion, studying, etc. You may spend more, depending on your level of expertise. I suggest you take the above information seriously. **CLASS ATTENDANCE (virtual) IS EXPECTED. THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE COURSE THAT MEETS SYNCHRONOUSLY SO STUDENT ACTIVITY IN D2L IS MONITORED.**

Personal Commitment: You are responsible to keep up with the schedule, assignments, readings and exams. Situations like "Computer problems", "no internet access", "I lost my book", or "my printer is out of ink" are all frustrating experiences but none will be accepted as an excuse to make up work. By enrolling in this course, it is your responsibility to make sure you get your assignments turned in on time. If it looks stormy out, or your personal computer is acting sluggish, it is advisable to find an alternate working situation.

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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Discussions	150 points
Exams	300 points
Project	50 points
TOTAL	500 points

Assessments

Discussion Assignments (150 points)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

We cover a tremendous amount of information each week, therefore, participation at a high level is very critical to your performance in this course. All students are expected to participate regularly and daily (Monday through Friday, except perhaps the weekends). Throughout the course, the instructor will give several discussion topics. Each student is required to respond to the prompt provided and post it on the discussion section of that week. Additionally, each student is required to respond in depth to at least two of your classmates' posts. Your Own Discussion Essay Post is worth 5 point each, and your responses to your classmates' Post is worth 5 points each. This means that, for each discussion assignment, you will receive 15 points for your participation (3 total posts per discussion). You will NOT receive extra points for more than 3 posts per discussion, however, you may respond as many times to enhance the discussion.

Due dates for your own discussion posts always fall on Wednesday by 11:59PM of each week, and responses to other students' posts are due Sundays by 11:59PM. Do not wait until the last minute to post your discussions. Post an assignment early as opposed to the last minute. In addition, grades will be based on quality of responses, not length of responses.

Students are expected to display tolerance for others' views in class discussions and emails. Comments and language should always be respectful and appropriate for a college community. Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.htm

Exams (300 points)
There will be two multiple-choice exams and one exam in essay format. Each exam will cover approximately 1/3 of the course material. Questions will require understanding and application of concepts covered in class. Each multiple-choice exam will be 50 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points. The exam in essay format will require you to identify critical perspectives in research regarding course topics. You will choose at least 3 published articles on any subject matter covered in your textbook, and report on your findings in a research paper. You will have 60 minutes to complete each multiple-choice exam. Multiple-choice exam questions will be drawn from material from the textbook and questions from study quizzes. Exams are open book; however, with roughly one minute a question for the multiple-choice exams, you will need to study the material ahead of time. Exams are not group endeavors; therefore, do **not** take your exam with the aid of others.

Final Project (50 points)
You have several options for a final project totaling 50 points. The project should relate to material covered in the course. All work must be original. Any copied, plagiarized, or work made with AI-generated content will receive a grade of zero. I strongly encourage you to complete this component of your coursework early. Late work will not be accepted. The goal is to demonstrate your knowledge of the material we covered and critical thinking. We demonstrate knowledge regarding the psychology of individual

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

characteristics in many interesting ways, to that end I am allowing some leeway on how you complete this product.

➢ A traditional research paper. The paper length should be about 6 pages, no more than 8 pages (not including the title and references). The paper must follow current APA formatting and include at minimum 5 peer-reviewed research articles as references.
➢ A PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should last no more than 10 minutes. This option incudes a video of you presenting the material (on PowerPoint, Zoom, etc.). For example, you could delve deeper in a concept covered in class or detail a specific research article.
➢ Art (painting, sculpture, fashion, song, clay, cooking, etc.) with an explanation of how this applies via written documentation or a video.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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 use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please feel welcome to contact me by email. All email should receive a response within 48 hours (except for weekends and holidays). If you have not received a response, then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include the student's last name, first name, course name and brief description of the reason for contact.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are required to submit each assignment by the close date indicated in the course outline and/or D2L. Late work will not be accepted without a verifiable excuse. Please communicate as quickly as possible regarding illnesses or extenuating circumstances that inhibit you from completing assignments. Students will be required to submit documentation that will support the described circumstance.

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 can be found at https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

 If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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 student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

East Texas A&M Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M 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.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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.

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Website: http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilitySe rvices/default.aspx

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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Assignment	Due Date
Week 1 – 8/25/25	Discussion #1: Introductions Read Chapter 1 in textbook	8/31/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 2 – 9/1/25	Discussion #2: Cultural Bias Read Chapters 2 & 3	9/7/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 3 – 9/8/25	Discussion #3: SDO Read Chapter 4	9/14/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 4 – 9/15/25	Discussion #4: Social Categorizations Read Chapter 5	9/21/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 5 – 9/22/25	Discussion #5: Stereotypes Read Chapter 6	9/28/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 6 – 9/29/25	**Class Project**	10/5/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 7 – 10/6/25	Discussion #6: Choose your topic Read Chapter 7	10/12/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 8 – 10/13/25	**Midterm Exam**	10/19/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 9 – 10/20/25	Discussion #7: Stigmas Read Chapter 8	10/26/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 10 – 10/27/25	Discussion #8: In-Groups/Out-Groups Read Chapter 9	11/2/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 11 – 11/3/25	Discussion #9: Fair Society Read Chapter 10	11/9/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 12 – 11/10/25	Discussion #10: Social Power Theory Read Chapter 11 **Exam Essays**	11/16/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 13 – 11/17/25	Discussion #11: Race Relations Read Chapter 12	11/23/25 by 11:59 pm
Week 14 – 11/24/25	**THANKSGIVING BREAK**	
Week 15 – 12/1/25	Discussion #12: Quote your text Read Chapter 13	12/7/25 by 11:59 pm
FINALS WEEK – 12/8/25	**Final Exam**	12/12 by 5:00 pm

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*