



# PSY 317.01W PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY

PSY 317.01W SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026  
Online Course

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Isabella Ortiz (Belle)  
Office Hours: TBD, will be zoom/by appointment  
Email Address: Isabella.ortiz@etamu.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: email or text  
Phone/Text: 903-246-2664  
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours (excluding weekends)

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Textbook(s) Required:** Personality Theories and Application, 2nd Ed. by Eric Shiraev  
[ETAMU BOOKSTORE](#)

[SAGE](#) (eBook) | [AMAZON](#) (physical copy) | ISBN: 1071857185

### Software Required

Reliable Internet Access  
Access to Microsoft Word/Google Docs or similar software

### Course Description

The various approaches to the study of personality and a consideration of its determinants, development, and assessment form the framework of the course. The course's primary objective is to facilitate your conceptual skills and development regarding the main schools of thought in personality theory. This semester, we will explore the following: What is personality? Where does it come from? Are we born with a personality? Do some people have good personalities and others have bad ones? Can people change their personalities? The answer to these questions is...it depends. There are several theories of personality, and each provides a unique perspective about what personality is, how it develops, and whether it remains stable or changes

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to describe and differentiate among the major psychological approaches that explain personality
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to explain research methodology and the ability to evaluate the merits of personality studies.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to define and apply key personality concepts, terms, and theories.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Technical Skills Needed

Success in this course will depend in part on your ability to take clear, organized notes and access them efficiently during exams. To that end, compiling your notes into a single, searchable document is highly recommended. This course will also require analytical skills.

**Textbook:** Readings in Personality Theories and Application, 2nd Ed. by Eric Shiraev

**Discussions:** Course discussions are due weekly by midnight on Thursday!

You must respond to the discussion question and respond to one peer. Each discussion and response must include at least 1 citation of a peer-reviewed source/article. Please use APA style and have a Reference section. If you do not respond to a peer, your discussion is considered incomplete and will be graded accordingly.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are due weekly by Friday at 5 PM! It includes 12 multiple-choice questions based on the chapter for that week.

**Exams:** There will be two exams, one in the middle of the semester covering the chapters previously discussed, and one at the end that will be cumulative.

All exams will be administered online via D2L (under Activities → Quizzes → [Exam Name]). Exams are synchronous; you cannot log out and back in. Your time clock starts when you open your exam.

Exams are not open-book, but you may use your notes; however, it is strongly suggested that you study as using notes will be time-consuming. **Missed exams will not be reopened unless you provide a University-Approved excuse for your absence.**

The **Final exam is cumulative**, covering material from the entire semester. The final exam will have 3 sections: 50 multiple-choice questions, a short-answer section, and lastly a case conceptualization section. Like the other exams, it will be administered online via D2L and is open-book and open-note.

**Written Paper:** You are required to complete a 10-page personality analysis paper in APA style with at least 10 peer-reviewed sources. This is 30% of your grade, and it is due on April 24th at 5:00 PM. In this paper, select someone to analyze (it can be yourself, a friend, a family member, or a fictional character), and you will describe their personality and analyze (compare/contrast) them using any two selected personality theories covered during the course. What would each theory say makes them who they are? Be creative.

### Written Assignment Grading Rubric - Personality Analysis Paper

Category	Excellent	Proficient	Developing	Beginning	Points
<b>1. Introduction &amp; Description of Selected Individual. Why did you choose this person? (10 pts)</b>	Clear, thorough description with strong context; introduces theories effectively (9–10 pts)	Adequate description; generally clear (7–8 pts)	Basic or limited detail; lacks clarity or depth (5–6 pts)	Missing or unclear introduction; vague description (0–4 pts)	/10
<b>2. Explanation of Personality Theory #1 (15 pts)</b>	Accurate, thorough explanation with strong understanding and terminology; supported by peer-reviewed sources (13–15 pts)	Mostly accurate with adequate detail; minor errors (10–12 pts)	Basic explanation; lacks depth; some inaccuracies (7–9 pts)	Inaccurate or incomplete explanation (0–6 pts)	/15
<b>3. Explanation of Personality Theory #2 (15 pts)</b>	Accurate, thorough, well-supported explanation (13–15 pts)	Mostly accurate; missing some elements (10–12 pts)	Basic or unclear explanation (7–9 pts)	Incomplete or inaccurate (0–6 pts)	/15
<b>4. Application of Theory #1 to the Individual (15 pts)</b>	Insightful, accurate application with detailed examples and clear connections (13–15 pts)	Adequate application; relevant examples (10–12 pts)	Limited or surface-level application (7–9 pts)	Incorrect, vague, or missing application (0–6 pts)	/15

<b>5. Application of Theory #2 to the Individual (15 pts)</b>	Insightful, accurate application with strong examples and connections (13–15 pts)	Adequate application; good examples (10–12 pts)	Limited depth; some inaccuracies (7–9 pts)	Poor or missing application (0–6 pts)	/15
<b>6. Compare &amp; Contrast of the Two Theories (15 pts)</b>	Deep, insightful comparison; clearly explains what each theory says about the individual (13–15 pts)	Good comparison; some depth (10–12 pts)	Basic comparison; misses nuances (7–9 pts)	Minimal or absent comparison (0–6 pts)	/15
<b>7. Writing Quality, Organization, &amp; Clarity (10 pts)</b>	Clear, well-organized, polished writing; minimal errors (9–10 pts)	Generally strong writing with minor issues (7–8 pts)	Frequent grammar or organization issues (5–6 pts)	Poorly written, unclear, or error-heavy (0–4 pts)	/10
<b>8. APA Style &amp; Sources (10 pts)</b>	Excellent APA formatting; 10+ peer-reviewed sources; correct citations & references (9–10 pts)	Minor APA errors; all required components present (7–8 pts)	Several APA issues; inconsistent citations (5–6 pts)	Incorrect APA or insufficient sources (0–4 pts)	/10

## Instructional Methods

This course will be conducted via online lectures. All slides will be uploaded onto D2L. All exams will take place on D2L.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To succeed in this course, I recommend that you:

- a) Read your chapter before you watch the class video
- b) Take detailed notes, as there may be things on the slides that are not in the book.
- c) Reach out to me if you have questions. Don't be afraid to ask.
- d) Have an open mind to the information... Be curious
- e) Have your own goals for the course, i.e., seek deeper self-understanding, family member,

etc.

f) Aim to understand each theoretical approach, don't move forward confused.

## 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

### Grading

Discussions = 30%

Quizzes = 10%

Written Paper = 30%

Exams (x2) = 30%

## LATE/MISSED WORK POLICY

Late work will not be accepted, and missed work will not be reopened. The only exception is a **university-approved absence** that verifies the reason for missing the deadline. It is your responsibility to stay informed of all important dates and deadlines throughout the semester.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### 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 the 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](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](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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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, 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. Other support options can be found here:

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

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

## **COURSE & UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **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**

The syllabus is subject to change at any time

## **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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

## **TAMUC Attendance**

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

## **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](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

## **Graduate Students' Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

## **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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-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 based on 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.

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 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 connections 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](http://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 [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that have 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 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

### **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

### **Course Outline**

Week 1 January 12-18th	Syllabus Discussion and Chapter 1: Introducing Personality Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 2 January 19-25rd	Chapter 2- Scientific Foundations to Study Personality Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM

The syllabus is subject to change at any time

Week 3 January 26-1st	Chapter 3: Research Methods Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 4 February 2-8th	Chapter 4: Psychoanalytic Tradition Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 5 February 9-15th	Chapter 5: The Behavioral Learning Tradition Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 6 February 16-22	Chapter 6: The Trait Tradition Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 7 February 23-1st	Chapter 7: The Cognitive Tradition Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 8 March 2-8th	Midterm Exam (no discussions, no quiz)
Week 9 March 9-15th	Sprink Break  (No Assignments)
Week 10 March 16-22	Chapter 8- Humanistic Tradition Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 11 March 23-27th	Chapter 9: The Developmental Domain Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 12 Mar 30-Apr 5th	Chapter 11: The Clinical Domain Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 13 April 6-12th	Chapter 12: The Adjustment Domain Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 14 April 13-19th	Chapter 13: The Digital Domain Due: Discussion by Friday at midnight, and Quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM
Week 15 April 20-26th	<i>Reserved</i> Written Project is due by April 24th, 5:00 PM
Week 16 Apr 27-May 3rd	Study Week
Week 17 May 4-8th	Final Exam

\* *Reserved* means the day is meant to catch up, should we fall behind schedule on the material. If we are up to date on the material on the day marked “*Reserved*,” then that is an independent study day for the exam with no class.