



PSY 211 (01W): Psychology of Individual Characteristics

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andryce Clinkscales, Ph.D.

Office Location: Virtual

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-4:30 pm (*Campus: Dallas, Room: 1945*)

University Email Address: Andryce.Clinkscales@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Typically, within 48 hours, except for weekends and holidays

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Format: This course will be managed in an **online asynchronous format**. Class attendance (virtually) is expected and monitored. This is not an online class that meets synchronously. If not attending (i.e., actively participating on D2L), students will not receive credit.

Textbook(s) Required:

Jones, J. M., Dovidio, J. F., Vietze, D. L. (2025). *The psychology of diversity* (2nd Edition). Wiley.

Chapter readings, class assignments, quizzes, and other course materials will be posted on D2L in a week-by-week format.

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.

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 and socialization influences their perception of themselves and the larger world around them.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. Learn to apply knowledge of individual characteristics to their understanding of psychological functioning and its impact.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Format:

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

Guidelines for Written Work:

ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE TYPED AND SUBMITTED AS A WORD DOCUMENT (NOT NOTEPAD, PDF, ETC.), UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. [STUDENTS MUST USE APA STYLE](#) WHEN CITING SOURCES WITHIN TEXT, AS WELL AS PREPARING THE REFERENCE LIST. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TURN IN QUALITY WORK (I.E., MEETS COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT AND FREE OF SPELLING ERRORS). PLAGIARISM OF ANY TYPE, AND USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT, IN SUBMITTED ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PLAGIARISM AND USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT IN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDLED ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY POLICY, AND WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 0 FOR THE RELATED ASSIGNMENT.

Refer to the publication manual for specific guidelines:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) Washington, D.C.

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
Applied Project	40 points
Attendance/Participation	10 points
Research Exposure	Full/No credit
TOTAL	500 points

Course Activities and Assignments

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Discussion Assignments (150 points)

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, unless otherwise instructed. Your own discussion post is worth 5 point each, and your responses to your classmates' post(s) 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 as you wish to enhance the class discussion.

Due dates for your own discussion posts always fall on Wednesday by 11:59PM of each week, and responses to your peers' posts are always due Sundays by 11:59PM of each week. 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 to the class/instructor. 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 three multiple-choice exams. 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 worth a total of **100 points**. You will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. The exam questions will be drawn from material from the course textbook. Exams are "open book" and you may use your notes; 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. Exams are administered via D2L.

Applied Project (40 points)

You have several options for an applied project totaling 40 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 cover in this class, as well as critical thinking. We demonstrate knowledge regarding the psychology of individual characteristics in many interesting ways, to that end I am allowing some leeway on how you complete this product. Examples of formatting options are provided:

- A PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should last no more than 10 minutes. This option includes a video of you actually 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.
- Handout. Develop a handout describing key concepts to be provided to a target audience.
- Art (painting, sculpture, fashion, song, clay, cooking, etc.) with an explanation of how this applies via written documentation or a video.

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Attendance/Participation (10 points)

Regular attendance (virtual) and active engagement in the D2L course are required. As this course does **not** meet synchronously, if not **actively** participating in asynchronous activities (i.e., accessing materials on D2L, responding to peers' discussion posts), students will not receive any attendance/participation points.

Research Exposure (Full or No Credit)

A goal of this class is to help expose you to research methods. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at ETAMU, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class must participate in the psychology department's participant pool **or** complete alternative assignments (ask your instructor for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 research credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full letter grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research exposure (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is provided in D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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@etamu.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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 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' discussion posts.
- Use the available materials in D2L for studying. This includes reading D2L content, your peers' posts, etc. Make flashcards. Take notes. Print out course material.
- 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.
- If you have a concern, please reach out to your instructor.

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 per week for reading, homework, discussion, studying, etc. You may spend more time, 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 course 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. **Late work is not accepted.** Adequate documentation regarding your personal circumstance(s) must be provided for late work to be accepted.

CWID and Password

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Technology-Related Issues

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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, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with the Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (e.g., “Good afternoon, Dr. Clinkscales”)

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- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

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

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

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East Texas A&M University 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 University 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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.



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As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Assignment	Due Date
Week 1 8/24/26	Introductions Read Chapter 1	
Week 2 8/31/26	Discussion #1: Cultural Bias Read Chapters 2 and 3	9/6/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 3 9/7/26	Discussion #2: SDO Read Chapter 4	9/13/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 4 9/14/26	Discussion #3: Social Categorizations Read Chapter 5	9/20/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 5 9/21/26	Exam #1	9/27/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 6 9/28/26	Discussion #4: Stereotypes Read Chapter 6	10/4/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 7 10/5/26	Discussion #5: Choose Your Topic Read Chapter 7	10/11/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 8 10/12/26	Applied Project	10/18/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 9 10/19/26	Discussion #6: Stigmas Read Chapter 8	10/25/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 10 10/26/26	Discussion #7: In-Groups/Out-Groups Read Chapter 9	11/1/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 11 11/2/26	Discussion #8: Fair Society Read Chapter 10	11/8/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 12 11/9/26	Exam #2	11/15/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 13 11/16/26	Discussion #9: Social Power Read Chapters 11 and 12	11/22/26 by 11:59 pm
Week 14 11/23/26	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15 11/30/26	Discussion #10: Challenges and Opportunities Read Chapters 13, 14, and 15	12/6/26 by 11:59 pm
FINALS WEEK 12/7/26	Final Exam	12/11/26 by 5:00 pm

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