

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Psychology
Oakland University

PSY 2360: Introduction to Individual Differences & Personality (Fall 2021)

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Classroom: Online; Moodle (<https://moodle.oakland.edu/>)

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment (Google Meet or Zoom).

Course Description

This course provides a review of empirical and theoretical work in the field of personality psychology, which examines individual differences in traits, behaviors, cognitions, dispositions, and temperaments.

Course Prerequisites/co-requisites: PSY 1000 with a grade of 'C' or higher.

Required Text: Larsen, R. J., & Buss, D. M. (2021). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature* (7th Edition). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

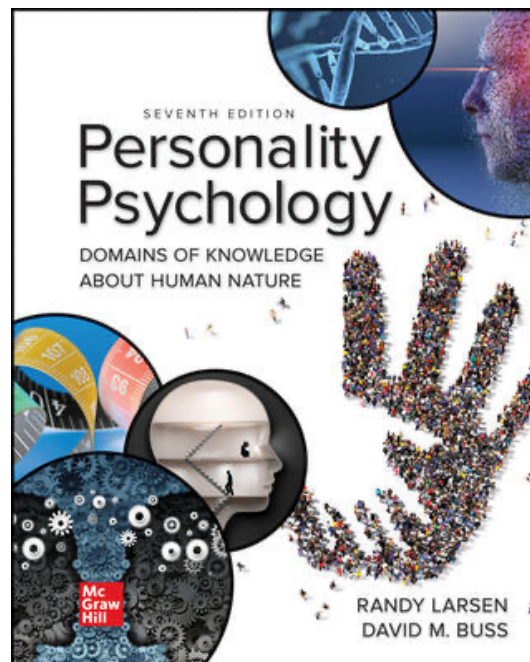
Link to online store: <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/personality-psychology-domains-knowledge-about-human-nature-larsen-buss/M9781260254129.html>

Loose leaf ISBN: 9781260254129

eBook ISBN: 9781260838961

*Note: Connect [the online supplemental resources bundled with the textbook] is **NOT** required for this course. Connect includes activities, videos, and study aids for the text that you may find useful*

Here is an image of the textbook for reference:



Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of concepts, methods and theories designed to enhance understanding of human behavior and/or societies.
- Application of concepts and theories to problems involving individuals, institutions, or nations.

University Learning Outcome (ULO):

- *Critical Thinking:* Critical thinkers are capable of comprehensively exploring issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

What will I learn?

- Analyze and evaluate relevant information, alternative points of view, inferences, and/or assumptions.
- Synthesize information in order to arrive at substantiated conclusions

Course Objectives:

1. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
2. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
3. Value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of formats.
5. Develop an approach to recognizing, studying, and evaluating individual differences in human behavior, cognition, and psychology.

Cross-Cutting Capacities

Effective communication, critical thinking, and analytical reading/writing.

Course Expectations

Expectations for Students

- (1) Have a reliable internet connected computer with the most updated Moodle-compatible web browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge). You may also need current versions of the Flasher player, Java and a PDF viewer. If you are not familiar with the Moodle platform or are unsure of how to navigate the online resources, see <https://www.oakland.edu/online/> for additional tutorials and learning support.
- (2) Have a backup plan to be able to log in from another computer or another location in the event that your computer crashes or internet goes down. Plan ahead for taking assessments and submitting assignments!.
- (3) Log in to Moodle at least 3-5 times a week; logging in daily is recommended.
- (4) Follow the calendar of events and complete all of the assignments by their deadlines.
- (5) Respond to emails within 24 hours during weekdays (48 hours on weekends).
- (6) Participate in a thoughtful manner.
- (7) Respect rules of etiquette by respecting your peers and their privacy, using constructive criticism, and refraining from the use of inflammatory comments.

Expectations for the Instructor

- (1) I will log in to the course daily and will alert students if I will be absent for longer than 1 day (Note: this is unlikely to happen).
- (2) I will respond to your questions, concerns, and emails within 24 hours (48 hours on weekends).

(3) I will grade all assignments and exams in a timely manner (within 2-3 days).

General Expectations

It is expected that students will devote at least **10-15 hours** per week on this course, split between reading the textbook, listening to lectures, completing assignments, and meeting with the professor virtually (if needed). Students are expected to complete all assignments individually. It is extremely important that students have consistent access to an internet connection.

SUDDEN LOSS OF INTERNET ACCESS:

If students lose access to a reliable internet connection and are unable to complete/submit coursework or attend virtual discussion sessions, it is necessary to contact (via telephone) the Office of E-Learning and Instructional Support as soon as possible to work out a solution. This office can reach out to me via email and alert me to the situation. Together, we can guide you towards resources to find internet access. Here are their phone numbers:

Office: (248) 370-4566

Help line: (248) 805-1625

Course Content

All course content will be posted on Moodle. Every Monday morning by 7-8am, I will post online lectures (up to 2), the quiz(zes), and exams under the weekly subheadings on Moodle. The assigned readings for each week are indicated on the syllabus. Students are required to read the assigned textbook chapters or articles (see schedule below) and watch all online video lectures, and then complete quizzes, article summaries, and exams. See schedule for all assignment due dates.

Grade Determination

The class is out of 400 total points split between 3 grade categories: Lecture Quizzes, Reading Quizzes, and Exams.

Quizzes	Article Summaries	Exams	Course Total
100 points (~33.33%)	50 points (~16.66%)	150 points (50%)	300 points

- **100 points – Quizzes:** You are required to read each assigned textbook chapter and watch each corresponding recorded lecture, and then complete a quiz that assesses your knowledge of the information presented in the textbook and lecture. *There will be a total of 20 quizzes throughout the semester, and each quiz is worth a total of 5 points. There is 1 quiz for every 1 online lecture/chapter (maximum of 2 quizzes per week).* Your **two lowest** lecture quiz scores will be replaced by your **two highest** lecture quiz scores at the end of the semester. **With the exception of Weeks 1 & 8, all quizzes are due Friday at 11:59pm (see Schedule for specific due dates).**
- **50 points – Article Summaries:** You will read peer-reviewed research studies or secondary academic publications and answer questions about their purpose, methodology, and findings. You will then submit your answers by uploading them as a word document on Moodle. *There will be a total of 4 article summaries throughout the semester.* Each article summary is worth a total of 12.5 points. **Article Summaries are due Friday at 11:59pm (see Schedule for specific due dates).**

- **150 points – Exams:** *There will be a total of 3 exams throughout the semester.* Each exam is worth a total of 50 points (~16.66% of your final grade). Exams are NOT cumulative. **Exams are due Sunday at 11:59pm (except Week 8; see Schedule for specific due dates).**
- ***5 points* – Extra Credit:** There will be an optional extra credit assignment at the start of the semester (for directions, see the post under Week 1 on Moodle). **The Extra Credit assignment is due at the end of Week 2 on Sunday 9/12/21 at 11:59pm.**

Make-up Work

No make-up coursework is permitted. There will NOT be opportunities to make up missed quizzes or exams unless you can provide a **legitimate excuse** of your reason for being unable to submit them (e.g., medical emergency with doctor’s note, loss of a reliable internet connection). If you cannot complete these assignments on the assigned due dates, it is your responsibility to complete them early. See Excused Absence Policy for approved sporting activity related absences.

Oakland University GPU Calculator

TOTAL PERCENT	Honor Points	OU Grade	OU GRADE
93-100%	4.0	A	2.9
90-92.9%	3.7	A-	2.8
87-89.9%	3.3	B+	2.7
83-86.9%	3.0	B	2.6
80-82.9%	2.7	B-	2.5
77-79.9%	2.3	C+	2.4
73-76.9%	2.0	C	2.3
70-72.9%	1.7	C-	2.2
67-69.9%	1.3	D+	2.1
60-66.9%	1.0	D	2.0
≤59%	0.0	F	

General Class Expectations and Course Policies

Add or Drop the Class

The University add/drop dates can be found on the website for the Office of the Registrar (<http://www.oakland.edu/registrar>). It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the many deadlines for dropping the course. Students can add into the class without the instructor’s permission up to a week after the first class. Thus, our class roster and online interactions may change slightly during the first week and a half. The OU policy for an “incomplete” will be followed. See the Undergraduate Catalog (<http://catalog.oakland.edu/>); click on Academic Policies and Procedures and then Grading System. OU has “class cancellation days” wherein students with outstanding balances will be canceled (i.e., dropped) from classes and university housing. Students need to be aware of those dates. See Student Financial Services <https://oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation/>. The Registrar also has a list of important dates <https://www.oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/#tab-2>

Policy on Academic Misconduct

The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog, in the Student Handbook or at this link: (<http://wwwp.oakland.edu/studentcodeofconduct/>).

- ✓ Assessments (quizzes, exams) are not group projects and are always to be completed independently of other students, including any assistance from other students.
- ✓ Use of Google or any other search engine to look up answers for any part of an exam is considered cheating. Copying responses from the internet is plagiarism. Both of these actions demonstrate a lack of academic integrity and if suspected, will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Academic Conduct Committee.
- ✓ Moodle will automatically close the assessment/exam when the time limit is up, regardless of your status. You must submit your responses before time is up or your answers will not be saved.
- ✓ Failure to take any assessment or exam before the termination date/time will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for that exam. Complete/submit assessments early to avoid technology problems.
- ✓ Assessments are available for several days, with availability dates posted on Moodle. Because all assessments are open for several days, they will not be reopened *under any circumstance*.
- ✓ See our Moodle webpage for a detailed explanation of how to take exams online.
- ✓ Computer or internet problems during your quizzes or final exam: If you have computer or internet problems during an exam, you must let me as soon as possible via email, and we will investigate the issue.

Excused Absence Policy

University excused absences for incomplete assignments or missed exams apply to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the OU excused absence policy, please visit their website: <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

Bereavement Policy

In the event of the death of certain members within families or among loved ones, the University grants necessary bereavement absences upon student request. For the official policy, see <https://www.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

Special Considerations

A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability Support Services, 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during the first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns

The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the [Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns](#)

Faculty Feedback

As a student in this class, you may receive “Faculty Feedback” in your OU e-mail if your professor identifies areas of concern that may impede your success in the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2-3 of the semester but may also be given later in the semester and more than once a semester. A “Faculty Feedback” e-mail will specify the area(s) of concern and recommend action(s) you should take. Please remember to check your OU email account regularly as that is where it will appear.

Video Recording Policy

Students who wish to video-record virtual office hours or appointments must request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals outside the class without the consent of the instructor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

Veteran Support Services

The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010. <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

Tentative Schedule (next page)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments Due
1	9/2/21 to 9/5/21	Syllabus & Introduction to the Class	Syllabus	Quiz # 1 (syllabus quiz) Due: Sun 9/5/21 @ 11:59pm
2	9/6/21 to 9/12/21	Introduction to Personality	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2	Quiz # 2 Due: Fri 9/10/21 @ 11:59pm Quiz # 3 Due: Fri 9/10/21 @ 11:59pm
3	9/13/21 to 9/19/21	The Dispositional Domain (part I)	Chapter 3 & Chapter 4	Quiz # 4 Due: Fri 9/17/21 @ 11:59pm Quiz # 5 Due: Fri 9/17/21 @ 11:59pm
4	9/20/21 to 9/26/21	The Dispositional Domain (part II)	Chapter 5	Quiz # 6 Due: Fri 9/24/21 @ 11:59pm Article Summary #1 Due: Fri 9/24/21 @ 11:59pm Exam #1 Due: Sun 9/26/21 @ 11:59pm
5	9/27/21 to 10/3/21	The Biological Domain (part I)	Chapter 6 & Chapter 7	Quiz # 7 Due: Fri 10/1/21 @ 11:59pm Quiz # 8 Due: Fri 10/1/21 @ 11:59pm

6	10/4/21 to 10/10/21	The Biological Domain (part II)	Chapter 8	<p>Quiz # 9 Due: Fri 10/8/21 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Article Summary #2 Due: Fri 10/8/21 @ 11:59pm</p>
7	10/11/21 to 10/17/21	The Intrapsychic Domain (part I)	Chapter 9 & Chapter 10	<p>Quiz # 10 Due: Fri 10/15/21 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Quiz # 11 Due: Fri 10/15/21 @ 11:59pm</p>
8 Fall Break	10/18/21 to 10/24/21	The Intrapsychic Domain (part II)	Chapter 11	<p>Quiz # 12 Due: Thurs 10/21/20 @ 9:59pm</p> <p>Exam #2 Due: Thurs 10/21/20 @ 9:59pm</p>
9	10/25/21 to 10/31/21	The Cognitive/Experiential Domain (part I)	Chapter 12 & Chapter 13	<p>Quiz # 13 Due: Fri 10/29/21 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Quiz # 14 Due: Fri 10/29/21 @ 11:59pm</p>
10	11/1/21 to 11/7/21	The Cognitive/Experiential Domain (part II)	Chapter 14	<p>Quiz #15 Due: Fri 11/5/21 @ 11:59pm</p> <p>Article Summary #3 Due: Fri 11/5/21 @ 11:59pm</p>

11	11/8/21 to 11/14/21	The Social & Cultural Domain (Part I)	Chapter 15 & Chapter 16	Quiz #16 Due: Fri 11/12/21 @ 11:59pm Quiz # 17 Due: Fri 11/12/21 @ 11:59pm
12	11/15/21 to 11/21/21	The Social & Cultural Domain (Part II)	Chapter 17	Quiz #18 Due: Fri 11/19/21 @ 11:59pm Article Summary #4 Due: Fri 11/19/21 @ 11:59pm
13 Thanksgiving Break	11/22/21 to 11/28/21	No Lecture	No Readings	No Assignments Due
14	11/29/21 to 12/5/21	The Adjustment Domain	Chapter 18 & Chapter 19	Quiz #19 Due: Fri 12/3/21 @ 11:59pm Quiz # 20 Due: Fri 12/3/21 @ 11:59pm
15	12/6/21 to 12/12/21	No Lecture	None	Exam #3 Due: Sun 12/12/21 @ 11:59pm

Note: This course will observe all deadlines posted on the Oakland University Academic Calendar, including add/drop dates. See <https://www.oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/> for more information.