

PSY 345: Individual Differences

Course Syllabus

Time: 9:30am-11:00am Tuesdays & Thursdays
Location: NOA 1.126

Professor: Elliot Tucker-Drob, Ph.D.
Office: SEA 4.218
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00am-12:00pm (directly after class).
Email: tuckerdrob@psy.utexas.edu
Website: Blackboard

Teaching Assistant: Daniel Briley
Office: SEA 3.320A
Office Hours: Fridays 10:00am-12:00pm
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Course Description

This course introduces students to current research, theories, and methods of individual differences psychology, with a focus on cognitive abilities and personality. Topics include genetic- and environmental-determinants, developmental processes, and relations to real-world outcomes.

Prerequisites

Because this is an upper division course, the Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the following prerequisites:

- (a) PSY 301 with a C or better
- (b) PSY 418 (or an equivalent listed in the course schedule) with a C or better
- (c) Upper-Division standing (60 hours completed)

Reading and Study Materials

- Texts
 - Required: Ashton (2007). Individual Differences and Personality.
 - Required: Nettle (2007). Personality: What Makes You the Way You Are.
 - Optional: Deary (2001). Intelligence: A Very Short Introduction.
- Selected Readings (SR) – to be posted on Blackboard

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on three equally weighted in-class exams. There will also be an optional comprehensive final exam that can be used as a substitute for the lowest score on an in-class exam, or as a make-up for a missed in-class exam. No other make-up exams are given for any reason.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the instructor's discretion. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students should notify the professor *in advance* if they expect to miss class for an

allowable reason. More than three unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. Other measures may be taken to ensure attendance.

Class Participation

There is not a formal class participation grade. The professor may use his discretion to alter final grades for students who contribute positively and consistently to class discussions throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity

Scholastic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. For more information on the standard of academic integrity see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

Provisional Schedule

Note: Readings and lectures are subject to change. Please check the Blackboard website for updates throughout the semester.

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Week 1: August 26</u> | Course Format, Grading, Overview Introduction to Individual Differences | Syllabus Academic Integrity Policy |

SECTION I: Measurement, Appraisal, and Dimensionality of Personality and Abilities

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|--|---|---|
| <u>Week 2: August 31 & September 2</u> | Levels of Measurement Standard Scores & the Normal Distribution Correlation & Regression Reliability Validity | Ashton: 1 (Deary: A word about correlation) Nettle: Introduction, 1,2 |
| <u>Week 3: September 7 & 9</u> | Test Construction | Ashton: 2 Nettle: 3,4 |
| <u>Week 4: September 14 & 16</u> | Historical and Contemporary Models of Personality & Abilities | Ashton: 3 SR: Jensen 1&2 (Deary: 1) Nettle: 5 |
| <u>Week 5: September 21</u> | Review for Exam I, bring questions | SR: Jensen 3 Nettle: 6, 7 |

EXAM I: September 23**SECTION II: Major Themes**

Week 6: September 28 & 30

External Validity: Real-World Outcomes

Ashton: 9
SR: Schmidt & Hunter (1998), Park
(2008), Ozer (2006)
(Deary: 5)Week 7: October 5 & 7

Lifespan Development

Ashton: 4
SR: Baltes et al. (1999); Tucker-Drob &
Salthouse (in press)
(Deary: 2)Week 8: October 12 & 14

Schooling & Environmental Influences

Ceci (1991)
Lucas (2007)
Nelson (2007)Week 9: October 19 & 21

Behavioral Genetics

Ashton: 6
SR: Turkheimer (2000)
SR: Bouchard (1990)
Nettle: 8, 9
(Deary: 4)Week 10: October 26 & 28Behavioral Genetics, continued...
Evolutionary Perspectives

Ashton: 7, Review Nettle: 2

Week 11: November 2

Review for Exam II, bring questions

EXAM II: November 4**SECTION III: Advanced Topics**Week 12: November 9

Neurobiological Bases

Ashton: 5
SR: Zuckerman (1995)
(Deary: 3)

November 11

Secular Trends

SR: Neisser (1997)

SR: Trzesniewski et al. (2008)
(Deary, 6)

Week 13: November 16 & 18

Secular Trends Continued,
Epidemiological Outcomes

SR: Deary (2008)
SR: Koenen et al. (2009)
Friedman et al. (1995)

Week 14: November 23

The Personality-Intelligence Interface

SR: Ackerman (1996)
SR: Dickens & Flynn (2001)

Week 15: November 30

Review for Exam III, bring questions

EXAM III: December 2

OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM

Monday, December 13, 2:00pm -5:00 pm

Final Exam Date and Time to be Verified
with Registrar.

SR= Selected Readings