

**PSYCHOLOGY 4411: ADVANCED TOPICS IN PERSONALITY
FALL, 2016**

Instructor: Dr. William Ickes

Office Hours: 1:30-2:20 MW in 510 LS

Lectures: 12:30-1:50 TTh in 428 LS

Lab meetings: 2:00-3:50 F in 428 LS

Lab instructor: Meghan Babcock

Office: 510 LS

E-mail: ickes@uta.edu

Phone: 817-272-3229

Textbooks:

Individual Differences and Personality by Michael C. Ashton [get either the first or the second edition]

Strangers in a Strange Lab by William Ickes [get either the paperback or the e-book edition]

Course Description and Goals: This course addresses advanced topics in personality psychology. It provides instruction and hands-on experience in the statistical procedures that personality psychologists use to assess such things as internal consistency, convergent and discriminant validity, factor structure, etc. It also provides an in-depth examination of several new personality measures and the opportunity to design original research projects to further explore one or more of them. Finally, it offers a close look at some of the most important variables that determine whether two strangers will have a good or a poor initial interaction. ***PSYC 4411 is an upper-division course that is limited to senior psychology majors only.***

The primary goals of the course are to help students to develop some practical research skills and relevant background knowledge in the area of personality psychology. Each week, one class period will be devoted to a formal lecture, another to a lecture that permits some informal class discussion, and a third to a personality lab session. By the end of the semester, students should be able to analyze personality data using standard statistical procedures and should be able to design and propose personality studies.

Attendance Policy: In educational contexts, as in the workplace, people who show up for work every day are entitled to greater benefits than people who don't. The benefit to people who show up every day in this course will be approximately 40 attendance points that will be applied to the total points they earn during the semester before final grades are computed.

Attendance will be taken during every class period. Students will receive an attendance point for each day they are present and sign the attendance sheet. Because there are approximately 40 class days this semester, students who attend every class session can expect to earn as many as 40 attendance points. In previous semesters, the number of attendance points earned has been found to correlate about .40 with the number of total points earned in a course like this. Attendance points provide one way to measure students' level of motivation and involvement in the course.

Important Dates:

September 5: Labor Day holiday

September 12: Census date

October 13: Exam 1 in 428 LS at 12:30 pm

November 2: Last day to drop or withdraw from courses

November 24-25: Thanksgiving holiday

December 1: Exam 2 in 428 LS at 12:30 pm

Course Outline:

Aug	25	Ashton, Introduction
	26	Lab introduction (Meghan Babcock)
	30	Ashton, Chapter 1, pp. 1-16
Sep	1	Strangers, Chapter 1
	2	<i>Lab: Internal consistency</i>
	6-8	Ashton, Chapter 1, pp. 16-25; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 2
	9	<i>Lab: Convergent and discriminant validity</i>
	13-15	Ashton, Chapter 2, pp. 27-34; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 3
	16	<i>Lab: The importance of aggregation</i>
	20-22	Ashton, Chapter 2, pp. 34-51; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 4
	23	<i>Lab: Self and observer reports of personality</i>
	27-29	Ashton, Chapter 3, pp. 53-75; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 8
	30	<i>Lab: Factor analysis of Big Five data</i>
Oct	4-6	Ashton, Chapter 4, pp. 77-91; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 5
	7	<i>Lab: Stability of personality traits across time</i>
	11	No lecture—Study period for Exam 1
	13	Exam 1 in 428 LS at 12:30 pm
	14	Review of Exam 1 in 428 LS at 2 pm
	18-20	Ashton, Chapter 6, pp. 114-139; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 6
	21	<i>Lab: Use of intraclass correlation to assess heritabilities</i>
	25-27	Ashton, Chapter 8, pp. 163-179; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 7
	28	<i>Lab: Predictors of scale reliability (2-page paper)</i>
Nov	1-3	Article on the Conventional Morality Scale; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 9
	4	<i>Lab: Proposed CMS study (2-page paper)</i>
	8-10	Articles on the Sense of Self Scale; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 10
	11	<i>Lab: Proposed SOSS study (2-page paper)</i>
	15-17	Articles on the AIAF, ED, and Rudeness Scales; <i>Strangers</i> , Chapter 11
	18	<i>Lab: Proposed AIAF, ED, and/or Rudeness Scale study (2-page paper)</i>
	22-25	Thanksgiving holiday
	29	No lecture—Study period for Exam 2
Dec	1	Exam 2 in 428 LS at 12:30 pm
	2	Review of Exam 2 in 428 LS at 2 pm

Grading: Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on the two in-class exams, the points you earn on the various lab assignments, and the number of attendance points you earn (see the attendance policy, above). The sum of your exam points, lab points, and attendance points equals the total number of points you earn during the semester. Your final grade in the course will be determined by the total number of points you earn.

Exams and Make-up Exams: You are expected to be on time for each of the scheduled exams. *If you arrive more than 20 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Plan to come early on the days that exams are scheduled.*

Make-ups will be given for the exams only if you provide a written, documented excuse (from a physician, the Dean of Students, etc.) indicating that your absence from the regularly scheduled exam was both justified and unavoidable. *No exceptions to this rule will be made.*

Active Learning Experiences and Course Goals: During the semester, you will have the opportunity to analyze data sets, report the results, and write original research proposals. These active learning experiences are designed to complement your reading and class attendance this semester. Your goals for the semester will not only include learning the course material but also acquiring some of the most fundamental skills that personality psychologists use.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located on your right as you exit the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center), which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <https://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans, and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor, email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

Library Information: Andy Herzog is the Psychology Librarian. He can be reached by e-mail at amherzog@uta.edu. You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://libguides.uta.edu/psychology>

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition: If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar's Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with university regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the university. "Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid the cancellation of presentations/tests because of bomb threats. Unannounced alternative sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternative class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

E-mail Protocol: Whenever you send an e-mail message to me, please put the class name in the subject line of your e-mail. Inside the body of the e-mail message, please insert your full name and the class name. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail messages in a prompt manner.

Beepers and Cell Phones: Please turn off all pagers, beepers and cell phones during class, as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me. Any use of these devices in class will result in your being asked to leave the classroom immediately.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call **911**. You may also dial the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone).