PSY 341K: Individual Differences
Course Syllabus

Time: 3:30pm-5:00pm Mondays & Wednesdays
Location: NOA 1.124

Instructor: Prof. Elliot M. Tucker-Drob
Office: SEA 4.218
Office Hours: 2:30pm-3:30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
Email: tuckerdrob@psy.utexas.edu
Website: Blackboard

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
  !    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.

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](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**

Please check the Blackboard website for updates throughout the semester.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: August 26</td>
<td>Course Format, Grading, Overview&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Individual Differences</td>
<td>Syllabus&lt;br&gt;Academic Integrity Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SECTION I: Measurement, Appraisal, and Dimensionality of Personality and Abilities</strong></td>
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<td>Week 2: August 31 &amp; September 2</td>
<td>Levels of Measurement&lt;br&gt;Standard Scores &amp; the Normal Distribution&lt;br&gt;Correlation &amp; Regression&lt;br&gt;Reliability&lt;br&gt;Validity</td>
<td>Ashton: 1&lt;br&gt;(Deary: A word about correlation)&lt;br&gt;SR: Cronbach &amp; Meehl (1955)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>(Labor Day September 7)</strong></td>
<td>Nettle: Introduction, 1,2</td>
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<td>Week 3: September 9</td>
<td>Test Construction</td>
<td>Ashton: 2&lt;br&gt;Nettle: 3,4</td>
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<td>Week 4: September 14 &amp; 16</td>
<td>Historical and Contemporary Models of Personality &amp; Abilities</td>
<td>Ashton: 3&lt;br&gt;SR: Jensen 1 &amp; 2&lt;br&gt;(Deary: 1)&lt;br&gt;Nettle: 5</td>
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<td>Week 5: September 21</td>
<td>Latent Variable Analysis</td>
<td>SR: Jensen 3&lt;br&gt;Nettle: 6, 7</td>
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<td>EXAM I: September 23</td>
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SECTION II: Major Themes

Week 6: September 28 & 30  External Validity: Real-World Outcomes  Ashton: 9
(Deary: 5)

Week 7: October 5 & 7  Evolutionary Perspectives  Ashton: 7
Review Nettle: 2

Week 8: October 12 & 14  Lifespan Development  Ashton: 4
SR: Baltes (1987)
(Deary: 2)

Week 9: October 19 & 21  Schooling & Environmental Influences  Ceci (1991)

Week 10: October 26 & 28  Behavioral Genetics  Ashton: 6
SR: Scarr & McCartney (1983)
Nettle: 8, 9
(Deary: 4)

EXAM II: November 2

SECTION III: Advanced Topics

Week 11: November 4  Neurobiological Bases  Ashton: 5
(Deary: 3)

SR: Trzesniewski et al. (2008)
(Deary, 6)
SR: Gerstorf et al. (2008) |
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<tr>
<td>Week 14: November 23</td>
<td>The Personality/Intelligence Interface</td>
<td>SR: Ackerman (1996)</td>
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<td>EXAM III: November 25</td>
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<td>Week 15: November 30-December 2</td>
<td>Outstanding Issues, Concluding Remarks</td>
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<td>OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>Friday, December 11, 7:00–10:00 pm</td>
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SR= Selected Readings