

Identification	Subject	Personality Psychology, PSYC202, 6 ECTS
	Department	Psychology
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall, 2026-2027
	Instructor	Aytaj Nuruzada
	Email:	Aytaj.nuruzada@gmail.com a.nuruzada@khazar.org
	Classroom/hours	Monday and Tuesday 17:30
Prerequisites	None	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Elective	
Textbooks and course materials	1. Burger, J. M., & Reevy, G. M. (2019). <i>Personality</i>. SAGE Publications. 2. Cooper, C. (2020). <i>Individual differences and personality</i>. Routledge. 3. Funder, D. C. (2024). <i>The personality puzzle</i> (9th ed.). W. W. Norton & Company. 4. Larsen, R. J., Buss, D. M., King, D. B., & Ensley, C. E. (2023). <i>Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge about Human Nature</i>. Routledge.	
Course description	This course introduces the scientific study of personality and human nature, examining how biological, psychological, social, cultural, and environmental factors interact to shape enduring patterns of thinking, feeling, motivation, and behavior. Students will explore major theories and contemporary research in personality psychology, with an emphasis on understanding how personality develops, functions, remain stable, and changes across the lifespan and across context. The course examines major theoretical perspectives in personality psychology, including trait, psychoanalytic, motivational, humanistic, cognitive, evolutionary, and biological approaches. Topics include trait taxonomies and personality assessment; person–situation interactions; genetic, evolutionary, and neurophysiological influences; personality stability and change; unconscious processes, motivation, emotion, cognition, and the self; narcissism and authenticity; gender and sex differences; and the influence of society and culture on personality. Students will also examine the relationship between personality and important life outcomes, including interpersonal relationships, work, morality, stress and coping, health, and well-being. The course introduces personality disorders and positive psychology perspectives, allowing students to consider both maladaptive and adaptive patterns of personality functioning. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply principles of personality psychology to understand individual differences, interpersonal behavior, life outcomes, and the complex interaction between persons and their environments.	
Course objectives	• Introducing students to the scientific study of personality and individual differences. • Examine the biological, psychological, interpersonal, social, and cultural factors that contribute to the development and expression of personality. • Explore the processes underlying personality stability and change across situations and throughout the lifespan. • Develop students' understanding of the interaction between personality and important life outcomes, including relationships, work, morality, stress, coping, health, and well-being. • Introduce students to contemporary approaches to personality assessment and the methods used to conduct scientific personality research. • Develop students' ability to critically evaluate theoretical claims and empirical evidence concerning personality and human behavior.	

	- Examine maladaptive patterns of personality functioning, including personality disorders, alongside adaptive characteristics emphasized in positive psychology. - Enable students to apply scientific knowledge of personality to understand individual differences and behavior in everyday, interpersonal, educational, and professional contexts.		
Learning Outcomes	- Define and explain fundamental concepts in personality psychology, including personality traits, individual differences, motivation, self-concept, personality development, and person–situation interaction. - Compare and contrast major theoretical perspectives on personality, including trait, psychoanalytic, motivational, humanistic, cognitive, biological, evolutionary, and social-cultural approaches. - Explain how genetic, biological, developmental, environmental, interpersonal, and cultural factors contribute to the development and expression of personality. - Apply major personality theories and concepts to analyze individual cases, interpersonal relationships, and patterns of behavior. - Interpret and critically evaluate empirical findings and research methods used in scientific study and assessment of personality. - Integrate biological, psychological, social, and cultural perspectives to develop evidence-based explanations of personality and individual differences.		
Teaching methods	Case analysis		+
	Group discussion		+
	Lecture		+
	Activities		+
Evaluation Criteria	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	8 th week	30
	Quizzes	November	5
	Individual Project	December	10
	Activity		5
	Attendance		5
	Final Exam	January	40
	Total		100
Class Policy	Activity - Contributing to class discussions, sharing insights, and integrating comments during lecture time. Actively participating in group work and discussions. Engage in activities. Compete in online quizzes. Individual Presentation - Working on a creative project chosen by the students and presenting the project in class. The project and presentation should be more than a summary of the literature. Projects can be demonstrations, engaging activities in class, experiments in class, or research. Attendance. It is important for students to attend all classes. If a student is unable to attend classes for a valid reason (illness, family status, etc.), they must report the matter to the faculty dean. It is expected that students will attend the class prepared and actively participate in class discussions. Laptops, Cell Phones, and Other Devices. Please make sure that your cell phone and other devices are set to silence or vibration during the class period. Activities using cell phones and other devices, such as text messaging, taking pictures, and using social media, are not permitted in the classroom. Active use of electronic devices during discussions creates a distraction for me and others. Respect and Courtesy. Unethical discussion and behavior of students in the classroom is strictly prohibited. Any disrespectful comments or behaviors are not permitted in this class. Academic Ethics. Cheating or any other academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a serious consequence, including, but not limited to, getting zero (0) points		

		on the given quiz, exam, or paper. The results of students who engage in academic dishonesty will be canceled. Use of AI: AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) are permitted in this course for brainstorming and checking grammar and style. Your use of AI tools must be properly documented. AI tools are not permitted in this course for completing the assignments, writing entire sentences and paragraphs, and competing in online quizzes. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will result in zero (0) points on the given assignment.	
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	15.09.2026 21.09.2026	Introduction to Personality Psychology: Definition, Assessment, Measurement, and Research Design.	Burger Ch1, pgs 1-12; Ch2 pgs 13-30
2	22.09.2026 28.09.2026	The Psychoanalytic Approach: Freudian Theory	Burger Ch3 pgs 33-55; Ch4 pgs 59-79
3	29.09.2026 05.10.2026	The Neo-Freudian Theory, Application, Relevant Research	Burger Ch5 pgs 81-108, Ch 6 pgs 109-130
4	06.10.2026 12.10.2026	The Trait Approach: Theory, Application	Burger Ch 7 pgs 134-160
5	13.10.2026 19.10.2026	The Biological Approach: Relevant Research	Burger Ch 8 pgs 199-225 Larsen, et.al., Ch 6 pgs 126-158
6	20.10.2026 26.10.2026	Evolutionary Perspectives on Personality	Larsen, et.al., Ch 8pgs 188-217
7	27.10.2026 02.11.2026	The Humanistic Approach: Theory, Application, Relevant Research	Burger Ch11 pgs 252-278, Ch 12 pgs 280-308
8		Midterm exam	
9	03.11.2026 10.11.2026	The Behavioral/Social Learning Approaches. Sex, Gender and Personality. Culture and Personality	Burger Ch 13 pgs 310-330 Larsen Ch 16, pgs 438-467, Ch17, pgs 468-501
10	16.11.2026 17.11.2026	The Cognitive Approach: Theory, Application, Relevant Research	Burger Ch 15 pgs 375-390
11	23.11.2026 24.11.2026	Emotion and Personality. Approaches to the Self	Larsen, et.al., Ch 13 pgs 318-354. Ch 14 pgs 355-407
12	30.11.2026 01.12.2026	Stress, Coping, Adjustment, and Health	Larsen, et.al., Ch 19, pgs 502-526
13	07.12.2026 14.12.2026	Personality Disorders	Larsen, et.al., Ch 20, pgs 527-544
14	15.12.2026 21.12.2026	Individual Projects	
15	22.12.2026 28.12.2026	Individual Projects	
16		Final exam	