

American University of Beirut  
Department of Psychology  
**Personality Psychology**  
PSYC 216 – Spring 2016

**Pia Zeinoun, PhD**

Email: [pz05@aub.edu.lb](mailto:pz05@aub.edu.lb)

Office Phone: 01 350 000 ext. 4360

Office: Jesup Hall, Room 106

Office hours: Tuesday 12 to 1pm and by appointment

### **Pre-requisites**

Undergraduate status in the psychology department.

### **Description**

This course examines contemporary personality theories, methods and applications. Classic theories of personality are discussed within the context of current evidence, with particular emphasis on trait approach, evolutionary, social, cross-cultural, and cognitive approaches to personality and individual differences.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

As a result of the activities and study in this course, you will be able to:

- Argue that psychology is an empirical science that can be differentiated from pop psychology and pseudoscience (1c)
- Explain key substantive content in the field of personality psychology and individual differences (5a)
- Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking and objectivity with psychological knowledge (2a)
- Effectively and fluently communicate psychological content in writing (6b)

### **Teaching Methodology**

The course will mainly be presented in the form of a lecture. Readings are assigned in advance, and students are expected to read the material before class. Other media such as videos may also be assigned. To ensure that the students have read the assigned material, there will be unannounced quizzes about the reading assignments. Written assignments are also required (see below).

### **Required Reading Material**

Book available at the bookstore:

- John, P., Robins, R., Pervin, L., (2008). *Handbook of personality: Theory and research*. Guilford press. NY
- Articles to be assigned.

### **Supplemental Material**

For your papers, you will need to use **APA style 6<sup>th</sup> edition**:

- American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- This website also has some (but not all) guidelines:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Other helpful websites on personality resources are:

- <https://psdlab.uoregon.edu/>

- <http://ipop.ori.org/>
- <http://personality-project.org/>
- <http://hexaco.org/>
- American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org/>
- Society of Personality and Social Psychology <http://www.spsp.org/>
- APA Style: <http://www.apastyle.org>

### **Communication**

The classroom is the primary method that I use for communicating with the class. Therefore, you are fully responsible to follow instructions and assignments given in class, and to be aware of announcements and changes communicated in the class. Moodle and Email will be the secondary method of communicating. I will use it to post grades, readings, announcements, and to email the class, so please make sure to follow it regularly. You are also welcome to email me on [pz05@aub.edu.lb](mailto:pz05@aub.edu.lb) for any questions.

Participation is an important part of the class. All students are expected to participate. In class, I may sometimes call upon students to share information from the text. This may be beyond the comfort zone of some students. Summoning you is meant to be helpful and supportive. If you have anxiety about participating in class discussion, please contact me within the first two weeks of class. On the other hand, if you are generally expressive and talkative, please make sure that you are mindful of the time you consume.

### **Academic Integrity**

Psychology relies on a solid code of professional conduct that stresses beneficence, nonmalificence, fidelity, responsibility, integrity, justice, and respect (APA, 2003). Students are encouraged to behave in a manner that promotes these values in our classroom. Students are expected to be honest and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity in their academic work and assignments. Students cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for that test or paper and the office of the Dean may/will be notified. I will strictly enforce the student code of conduct in the AUB handbook. Please see AUB Student Code of Conduct on:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>.

### **Students with Disabilities**

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me during the first two weeks of class so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to also contact the Accessible Education Office: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

### **Non-Discrimination**

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at [www.aub.edu.lb/titleix](http://www.aub.edu.lb/titleix) . To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX

Coordinator Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or [titleix@aub.edu.lb](mailto:titleix@aub.edu.lb) . An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at [www.aub.ethicspoint.com](http://www.aub.ethicspoint.com)

### Absenteeism Policies and Procedures

The FAS regulations state that, missing a third of the classes (before last day of withdrawal) is grounds for dismissal from the course. All absences are considered *unexcused* absences, unless the student provides a written report from AUBMC (not another institution) or evidence of a “force majeure”.

If a student misses a scheduled exam, and presents a valid documented excuse to the instructor within 72 hours, I may allow them to have a make-up exam or have an extension for submitting the paper.

If a student misses an unannounced quiz, exam, and presents a valid documented excuse to the instructor within 72 hours, I will use my discretion to prorate the grade if applicable.

If a student does not submit their paper by the deadline assigned, and fails to provide a documented excuse the next day, they will be deducted 5 points from the overall grade. (Internet and printer problems, and corrupted attachments, are not valid reasons for not submitting on time).

If the student is absent on a day that an announcement is made in class, they are still responsible for knowing that announcement.

### Learning Tasks and Grading

#### Participation and Unannounced Quizzes (10% + 10%)

In every class, students are required to read the material ahead of time. During the lecture, students will be asked to participate based on the readings. Occasionally, an unannounced quiz will be administered to evaluate student learning. Students will be evaluated based on their attendance, level of participation, and engagement which is demonstrated through their willingness to come to class prepared, on time, ask text-informed questions, communicate with the instructor outside of class hours if need be, integrate the learned material, and follow assignment instructions properly.

#### Paper (15%)

To enhance their academic writing, students are required to write a research paper. Students will be evaluated on their ability to write about the subject matter with the appropriate command of language skills, proper terminology, and correct use of APA style.

#### Exams (20% + 20% + 20%)

There will be two multiple-choice exams and a final.

### Grading and Evaluation

Tasks	Grade Weight
Attendance	5%
Participation and Engagement	5%
Quizzes (2 to 5)	10%
Paper	20%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Final	20%
Total	100%

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

The tentative schedule will be updated on moodle. Students are responsible to stay up to date with the schedule.