

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

HBD5725.E1 Psychology of Adjustment
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

HBD5725.E1 Psychology of Adjustment
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century
Author: Weiten/Dunn/Hammer
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Year Published: 2024
Edition: 13th
ISBN: 13: 9780357798010
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, www.Amberton.edu. There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in the course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

This Psychology of Adjustment course examines how psychological principles and theories can enhance personal adjustment, resilience, and well-being. Students will explore key topics such as emotional response theories, coping mechanisms, self-concept, self-esteem, and strategies for managing stress, depression, and interpersonal relationships. Emphasis is placed on understanding psychotherapeutic interventions and developing practical skills to promote mental health and life balance. Through the study of adjustment and growth processes, students will gain insights into adapting positively to life's challenges and transitions, making this course ideal for those seeking to enhance personal effectiveness and overall life satisfaction.

CAVEAT: No graduate credit will be awarded if HBD4725 has been successfully completed.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Understanding the process of personal adjustment and discussing its implications.
2. Analyzing how competence and flexibility relate to intellectual adjustment.
3. Assessing the emotional response theories of selected theorists.
4. Examining the emotional and physiological responses to stressful situations, including life changes, and evaluating the positive and negative ways people cope with stress.
5. Determining the implications of psychotherapeutic intervention for optimum personal adjustment.
6. Understanding the maintenance of interpersonal security, self-esteem, and the assimilation of the data of experience as functions of the self.
7. Comprehending the concepts of diffusion of responsibility and blind obedience to authority as they relate to the personal evaluation of behavior.
8. Analyzing communication styles and how they impact the ability to adjust effectively.
9. Correlating attraction, friendship, and love in interpersonal relationships.
10. Applying the theories of adjustment to personal development.
11. Illustrating the motivational relationship of human needs to adjustment and development.
12. Applying the principles of Positive Psychology.
13. Tracing the development of various forms of parent-child relationships and their implications for the effective development of both parties.
14. Comprehending the nature of primary and secondary drives as motivational processes.
15. Exploring gender, ethnic and sociocultural differences in responses to and coping skills related to life changes.
16. Exploring the role and use of Artificial Intelligence in helping people cope psychologically in their personal, professional, and social lives.

Acquired Skills:

1. Problem-Solving and Coping Skills
2. Emotional Regulation Skills
3. Stress Management Skills
4. Self-Reflection and Insight
5. Goal-Setting and Personal Motivation
6. Application of Psychological Theories to Real-Life Situations

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Read and complete all exercises by the scheduled due date. An exercise submitted after the due date will be assessed a penalty of 10% for each day it is late. Work submitted more than one week after the scheduled due date will NOT be accepted.
2. The last day to submit exercises will be Tuesday, November 17, 2026, during week 10.
3. Weekly grades will be recorded in MindTap.
4. Term Paper and Artificial Intelligence Project grades will be recorded in Moodle.

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting

plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

Please see below for instructions.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Week 1 – Adjusting to Modern Life

Week 2 – Theories of Personality

Week 3 – Stress and Its Effects

Week 4 – Coping Processes

Week 5 – Psychology and Physical Health

Week 6 – The Self

Week 7 – Social Thinking and Social Influence

Week 8 – Psychological Disorders

Week 9 – Psychotherapy

Week 10 – Positive Psychology and the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	Adjusting to Modern Life	Study Ch. 1; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	1, 2, 10, & 11	September 15
2	Theories of Personality	Study Ch. 2; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	1, 4, 8, 10, 11, & 13	September 22
3	Stress and Its Effects	Study Ch. 3; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	1, 3, 6, 8, 12, & 14	September 29
4	Coping Processes	Study Ch. 4; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, & 10	October 6
5	Psychology and Physical Health	Study Ch. 5; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, & 13	October 13
6	The Self	Study Ch. 6;	3, 6, 8, 10, 13, & 14	October 20

		Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1		
7	Social Thinking and Social Influence	Study Ch, 7; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	4, 7, 8, 10, 11, & 15	October 27
8	Psychological Disorders	Study Ch, 14; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1	1, 3, 5, 6, 9, & 13	November 3
9	Psychotherapy	Study Ch, 15; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1; Submit Term Paper	1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, & 13	November 10
10	Positive Psychology, and the Use of Artificial Intelligence	Study Ch. 16; Complete Mastery Training & Quiz 1; Submit Artificial Intelligence Project	2, 4, 6, 8, 12, & 16	November 17

GRADING CRITERIA:

- (1) The Assignments in MindTap for each of the 10 Chapters covered each counts 6% of the course grade, or a combined total of 60%
- (2) The Term Paper counts 20%
- (3) The Artificial Intelligence Project counts 20%

Graduate

92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels.

Incomplete Grades

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

How To Withdraw From a Course

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

Moodle Tutorial:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a *Student Moodle Tutorials* course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the *Student Moodle Tutorials* and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

Email Communication

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communication. Students should check Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The **Amberton Library** provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (Library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.

