

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Psychology
Programme:	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Clinical & Individual Differences in Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 7103
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course will increase students' awareness of the psychometric methods used to measure, assess and categorise aspects of human behaviour. The course examines and discusses theoretical viewpoints concerning the structure and classification of intelligence, personality, clinical issues and/or psychopathology.

The spine of the course will see students critically discuss the types/traits debate in individual differences research, the categorical/dimensional debate in clinical diagnostic research, and to evaluate the extent of the overlap in these arguments. Students will also learn to evaluate the validity and reliability of well-known measurement methods such as intelligence testing, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders (DSM-V), and personality assessment. Students will learn how to critically analyse the efficacy of various therapeutic techniques.

Prerequisites:

MSc Psychology (Conversion) students only

Aims and Objectives:

The course is designed to develop students' understanding of the theory and practice of clinical and individual differences research. Students will develop a thorough understanding of the key divisions of individual differences research such as personality, intelligence, and cognitive styles. They will then use this knowledge to evaluate how psychology assesses less common behaviours such as those seen in mental health disorders. They will then turn to

look at evidence-based research, and ethical guidelines to assess treatments of those behaviours.

Programme Outcomes:

7A.i, 7A.iii, 7B.i, 7C.iv, 7D.ii, 7D.iii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of current theoretical approaches that explain classification of individual differences and mental health disorders
- Use critical evaluation to evaluate the efficacy of personality measurements and/or diagnostic tools in evaluating human behaviour
- Establish an awareness of cultural, and societal influences on the practice of psychology
- Understand and demonstrate reasoning behind the ethical guidelines that must be followed when conducting psychological research and or therapeutic sessions.
- Be able to critically evaluate the measurement, diagnosis, and treatment of various mental health disorders

Indicative Content:

- Personality (e.g. Psychoanalytic, Behavioural, Traits/Types in personality research, Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory)
- Psychometrics
- Intelligence
- Positive Psychology
- Psychology and Health
- Diversity
- Current issues in Clinical Psychology including the Scientist/Practitioner debate in Clinical Psychology
- Overview of common mental health disorders Assessing and diagnosing mental health disorders, including Categories/Dimensions in DSM-V.
- Treatment approaches for mental health disorders
- Ethical issues

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

- Lecture presentations with key concepts
- Group discussions and journal articles
- VLEs for access to lecture notes, some readings, and revision materials.

Indicative Text(s):

- Maltby, J., Day L., & Macaskill, A. (2017) *Personality, Individual Differences and Intelligence*. Harlow: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Trull, T.J. & Prinstein, M. J. (2013) *The Science and Practice of Clinical Psychology* (8th ed.) Boston, Cengage.

Journals:

- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- Clinical Psychology Review
- Intelligence

Web Sites:

Scholarly search sites such as EBSCO Host & Google Scholar to find research articles

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total hours updated	April 2024	

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