

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

|                                    |                                                      |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Academic School/Department:</b> | Psychology                                           |
| <b>Programme:</b>                  | Psychology                                           |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                 | 5                                                    |
| <b>Course Title:</b>               | Personality, Individual Differences and Intelligence |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                | PSY 5215                                             |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>                | 120                                                  |
| Timetabled Hours:                  | 45                                                   |
| Guided Learning Hours:             | 0                                                    |
| Independent Learning Hours:        | 75                                                   |
| <b>Credits:</b>                    | 12 UK CATS credits<br>6 ECTS credits<br>3 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to increase students' awareness of the variety of theoretical viewpoints that exist regarding the nature of human individual differences and the factors that influence human behaviour. We will examine the different theoretical viewpoints about intelligence, personality structure and its development, emotion, motivation, cognitive styles, the development of psychopathology, and clinical applications for personality change. Students will evaluate prominent theoretical perspectives critically and consider cultural variations in individual differences.

### **Prerequisites:**

PSY 4210

**Aims and Objectives:** This course is designed develop students' understanding of the theory and practice of individual differences. Lectures will introduce topics in psychological assessment, personality, intelligence, cognitive styles, emotion, motivation, mood, mental health and gender and ethnicity. Students are expected to develop a sound understanding of key divisions of individual differences as well as associated strengths and limitations.

**Programme Outcomes:**

Psychology: 5Ai, 5Aii, Bi, 5Ci, 5Cii, 5Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Develop an understanding of the various theories of individual differences and how they impact the practice of psychology;
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of the various theories of individual differences.
- Develop an understanding of the evolution of psychological thought and how personal experiences and scientific research have aided that progress.
- Establish an awareness of the cultural and societal influences on individual differences theories and the practice of psychology.

**Indicative Content:**

Psychological Testing Personality  
Intelligence Cognitive Styles Emotion  
Motivation Mood  
Mental Health Gender and Ethnicity

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:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on journal articles and important questions on the topics discussed
- III. Internet sites related to psychology
- IV. Intra-net access to lecture notes and reading material

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

***Recommended textbook***

Maltby J, Day L, Macaskill (2013) *Personality, Individual Differences and Intelligence* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Harlow: Pearson

***Journals***

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*  
*Personality and Individual Differences*

*Intelligence*

*Motivation and Emotion*

**Web Sites**

<http://apa.org/topics/intelligence/index.a>

[spx http://apa.org/topics/personality/](http://apa.org/topics/personality/)

[https://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Individual\\_differences\\_psychology.html](https://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Individual_differences_psychology.html)

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

---

Change Log for this CSD:

| Nature of Change         | Date Approved &<br>Approval Body (School<br>or LTPC) | Change<br>Actioned by<br>Academic<br>Registry |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Revision – annual update | May 2023                                             |                                               |
| Total Hours Updated      | April 2024                                           |                                               |
|                          |                                                      |                                               |
|                          |                                                      |                                               |
|                          |                                                      |                                               |