

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Clinical & Individual Differences in Psychology
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 7103
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Afsane Riazi
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200 (standard 4 credit MSc course)
Lectures:	20
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	140
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	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 be learn 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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**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 (8<sup>th</sup> ed.)* Boston, Cengage.

**Journals**

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Clinical Psychology Review

Intelligence

**Web Sites**

Scholarly search sites such as EBSCOHost & 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 Registry Services
Three further points added to indicative content		
First indicative text is new.		
