



**EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2002**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

**A:** Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Date: **OCTOBER 2001**  
**B:** Department/ **PSYCHOLOGY** New   
 Program Area: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES** Course  Revision   
 If Revision, Section(s) **P,Q,R**  
 Revised:  
 Date Last Revised: **OCTOBER 1994**

**C: PSYC 331 D: INTRODUCTION TO PERSONALITY E: 3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits												
<b>F:</b> Calendar Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to theory and research in personality. Students will examine such topics as the assessment of personality, personality development, biological processes and personality, health and personality, defence mechanisms, personality disorders, and treatments aimed at modifying personality.														
<b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings  Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:  <b>Lecture</b>  Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)  <b>Lecture: 4 hrs. per week / semester</b>  Number of Weeks per Semester: <b>14</b>	<b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:  <b>PSYC 200</b>	<b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:  <b>NONE</b>												
	<b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:  <b>NONE</b>													
	<b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:  <b>35</b>													
	<b>L: PLEASE INDICATE:</b>													
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SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS ( <a href="http://www.bccat.bc.ca">www.bccat.bc.ca</a> )														

**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the history of personality assessment.
2. Describe how personality inventories are constructed and used.
3. Describe how projective tests of personality are constructed and used.
4. Distinguish between different types of validity.
5. Distinguish between different types of reliability.
6. Evaluate the validity and reliability of contemporary personality inventories.
7. Evaluate the validity and reliability of contemporary projective tests of personality.
8. Explain the interaction between personality and situational factors.
9. Describe the major theoretical perspectives of personality (ie: dispositional, biological, psychodynamic, phenomenological, learning, and cognitive).
10. Describe research conducted to test the major theories of personality.
11. Evaluate the major theories of personality.
12. Identify and describe the five major personality traits.
13. Explain how the heritability of personality is assessed.
14. Identify the role of biological processes in personality development and change.
15. Identify the role of environmental process in personality development and change.
16. Identify and describe the major mechanisms of defence.
17. Evaluate the adaptive value of defence mechanisms.
18. Describe research on the relationship between personality and physical health.
19. Describe research on the relationship between personality and mental disorders.
20. Identify and describe the various personality disorders.
21. Describe methods of shaping personality.
22. Describe therapeutic techniques used to treat people with personality disorders.

Subject and Course Number

**N: Course Content**

1. The History of Personality Assessment
2. Contemporary Methods of Assessing Personality
3. Personality Traits
4. The Validity of Personality Tests
5. The Reliability of Personality Tests
6. Theories of Personality
7. The Heritability of Personality
8. The Interaction Between Personality and the Environment
9. Physiological Correlates of Personality Traits
10. Psychological Correlates of Personality Traits
11. Personality Disorders
12. Modifying Personality Through Treatment

**O: Methods of Instruction**

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives and will include some of the following:

- lectures
- audio visual materials
- group discussions
- computer simulated exercises
- classroom demonstrations

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

Students will be required to purchase a textbook such as one of the following:

Brody, N. & Ehrlichman, H. (1998) Personality Psychology: The Science of Individuality  
Upper Saddle Rive, NJ, Prentice Hall

Carver, C.S. & Scheier, .F., (1996) Perspectives on Personality (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.)  
Needham Heights, MA., Allyn and Bacon

Derlega, V.J.J., Einstead, B.A., & Jones, W. (1999) Personality: Contemporary Theory and Research (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)  
Chicago, IL, Nelson-Hall.

Textbook to be updated periodically.

Subject and Course Number

**Q: Means of Assessment**

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluations will be based on the course objectives. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

An example of one possible evaluation scheme:

2 Midterm exams (worth 20% each)	40%
Literature review paper	20%
Oral presentation of paper highlights	10%
Final exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No. Given that this course involves theoretical and empirical analyses of personality psychology, it is unlikely to be open for PLAR except as a credit transfer from another institution.

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Course Designer(s)

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Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

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Dean/Director

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Registrar