

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

PSYC 308 – Personality and Individual Differences

Updated by: Barat Wolfe, Ph.D.

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2019**

- A. **TITLE:** Personality and Individual Differences
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** PSYC 308
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hour(s) per week for 15 weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** 3
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students are introduced to the diverse ways of conceptualizing, assessing, and studying personality. Personality psychology is the scientific study of individual differences in characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving. Students will learn about different approaches to the study, assessment, and application of personality and individual differences, including: psychoanalytic, trait, humanistic, biological, cognitive, behavioral/social learning, and cultural, among others.

- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None Yes If yes, list below:
Introductory Psychology (PSYC 101) or Permission of Instructor

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

<i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i>	<i>PSLO</i>	<i>GER 3</i>	<i>ISLO</i>
a. Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, principles, theories, and methods of personality and individual differences.	1. Knowledge Base in Psychology	Knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences	5
b. Interpret, analyze, and synthesize personality and individual differences research	2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking	Understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis	2 [IA]
c. Apply ethical thinking and cultural sensitivity to evaluate and assess personality and individual differences	3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World		4 [ER, GL]
d. Demonstrate effective written and oral presentation skills to make evaluative and persuasive arguments	4. Communication		1 [O,W]
e. Apply personality theory and skills to complete course tasks using APA guidelines	5. Professional Development		5

KEY	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1–5]
ISLO #	ISLO & Subset
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes No

K. TEXTS:

Suggested text:

Burger, J. (2015). Personality (9th ed.). Stamford CT: Cengage.

L. REFERENCES: To be determined by the instructor

M. EQUIPMENT: None Needed: Technology enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Exams, quizzes, essays, student presentations, writing assignments, and discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to Personality Psychology

- a. History of field
- b. Overview of traditional approaches to understanding personality

II. Research Methods and Ethics

- a. Types of data and data collection
- b. Research Design
- c. Using APA
- d. Psychometrics
- e. Ethics

III. Psychoanalytic Approach

- a. Theory and principles
- b. Freud and Neo-Freudians
- c. Applications
- d. Assessment techniques
- e. Relevant research

- IV. Trait Approach
 - a. Theory and principles
 - b. Applications
 - c. Assessment techniques
 - d. Relevant Research

- V. Humanistic Approach
 - a. Theory and principles
 - b. Applications
 - c. Assessment techniques
 - d. Relevant Research

- VI. Biological
 - a. Theory and principles
 - b. Evolutionary theory
 - c. Applications
 - d. Assessment techniques
 - e. Relevant Research

- VII. Cognitive
 - a. Theory and principles
 - b. Applications
 - c. Assessment techniques
 - d. Relevant Research

- VIII. Behavioral/Social Learning
 - a. Theory and principles
 - b. Applications
 - c. Assessment techniques
 - d. Relevant Research

- IX. At the discretion of the professor:
 - a. Additional cultural considerations
 - b. Clinical settings
 - c. Personality disorders
 - d. Career choices
 - e. Others

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: N/A