PSY 305 Personality is a four credit point unit.

The Lectures: This course covers theories and research addressing shared features of personality, and also what is unique to a single person. We look at features of our temperament that contribute to having a particular personality style as well as developmental experiences that contribute to the underpinnings of personality. We explore some personalities with unusual affective styles such as narcissistic, Machiavellian and psychopathic personalities as case studies of how early influences can have knock-on effects in later development. Personality emerges as a dynamic system of adaptation, and we consider optimal ways of researching and working with particular personality styles, including exploring the possibilities for personal change.

The study of personality addresses the individual differences that make a difference in terms of creative adaptation to and resilience in the face of changing life demands. This course explores the way we are shaped by both our temperament and our cultural experiences, beginning with our earliest relationships to others. You could call it ‘Culture meets biology’. Unlike many other animals we are born fairly helpless but with a large experiencing brain. Of necessity we depend on others. How those others react to us, meet our needs (or fail to) shapes our bodily responses, our pleasures, beliefs, values and expectations about ourselves and about the world. We will explore the subtle nature of these exchanges from a variety of points of view.

There are a number of ways to get at what we mean by personality: you can describe it in terms of traits, observe what people do and try by a variety of means to assess a person’s motivations. You can explore what stories or narratives a person tells about him/herself. People can of course ‘fake good’ (give a socially desirable rather than a true account of what they are like) or lie. Any research studying personality must consider how to get round the problems unconscious bias or outright deceptive processes can pose. This is especially important if you are considering personality styles where the person is skilled in deception, or does not have full insight into his or her own personality. Few of us have perfect insight into ourselves, for one reason or another. The course will cover different personality styles as well as different ways of trying to ‘get at’ what personality is.

A word about the recommended reading at the end of each lecture topic: don’t stress out and feel you have to read it all. It will not be explicitly examined in the multi-choice or short answer exam unless it is mentioned in lectures. The recommended reading is there so that if this is something that really grabs you and makes you want to read up on this for your exam, for interest or for future research.

Unit rationale

What is unique about this course is that it has a series of lectures that give you an overview of personality and a series of seminars offered on different topics that enable you to specialise in what interests you. SO the seminar strand that Student One allocates you to will not necessarily be the one you will go to; as you may find that there is a seminar topic at another time that you like better. In this course, seminars are allocated in the first lecture, so make sure that you are there or that you send your preferences to Doris if you have no flexibility about times.
TEACHING STAFF

**Convenor**
Dr Doris McIlwain C3A 423, Ph: 9850 9430 Email: dmciwi@psy.mq.edu.au

**Other Staff**
Dr Simon Boag, C3A 407 Ph: 9850 8024 Email: Simon.Boag@psy.mq.edu.au
A/Prof Amanda Barnier, C5A 422 Ph 9850 4861 Email: abarnier@maccs.mq.edu.au
*(NOTE THAT AMANDA’S ROOM NUMBER WILL CHANGE FROM 9 JULY)*
Brett Millar

**Consultation Times**
Doris McIlwain: Tuesday 11-1pm, Wednesday 12-1pm.
Amanda Barnier: Monday 1-2pm, Thursday 12-1pm

CLASSES

**Lecture:**
Monday 11am-1pm in C5C T2
There are 13 lectures of two hours duration. They are uploaded to the web where you can stream them, or download them to CD or ipod.

**Seminars:**
Seminars begin in week two and go through to week 7. You will have six seminars and each is two hours in duration (so that we can show films where relevant).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Name of Tutor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>C4A312</td>
<td>Doris McIlwain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>C3B 306</td>
<td>Brett Millar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6-8pm</td>
<td>W5C 302</td>
<td>Brett Millar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>C3A 501</td>
<td>Doris McIlwain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>F9A 151</td>
<td>Amanda Barnier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12-2pm</td>
<td>C4A 325</td>
<td>Simon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4-6pm</td>
<td>C3B 306</td>
<td>Simon Boag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

OR: The timetable for classes can also be found on the University web site at [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au)

**Attendance:** While there is no formal role taken in seminars, you need to be there to do well in the assessments.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

**Prescribed text:** There is no main text for this course this year, but a core collection of readings available on e-reserve.
**UNIT WEB PAGE**

Webpage of unit  
http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/305 for overheads, & up to the minute course news

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Course Objectives and Generic Skills

In completing this course successfully, you will  
1. Gain a basic insight into central issues in contemporary personality research in terms of theory, psychometric and developmental issues.  
2. Learn of the variety of approaches to the study of personality, and their relevance to everyday life, research and the working world.  
3. Learn how to read critically, to take your own stance on an array of issues in writing and in discussion with your peers.  
4. Write an essay that synthesises a body of material and argues for an original position.  
5. Develop research skills and undertake an independent seminar research project, which may be developed either individually or in a small group.  
6. Acquire enough background knowledge to direct further studies in the area.  
7. Learn how to communicate effectively during group discussions in seminars.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY**

How unit is taught?  
The unit covers a broad array of material that enables you to locate what interests you most, so that you can specialise in that. It aims to teach you how to formulate what interests you and to explore relevant theoretical and empirical material. It encourages you to take your own stance on issues, as this is what is required of you at a higher level of research in psychology. There are also serious efforts made to help you enhance your writing skills so that you make the best use of the material you have read.

The philosophy of teaching that informs this unit is that if you are present and awake during lectures you should pass. If you do some of the reading you should do well, and if you learn how to structure an argument that synthesises and array of material cogently as well as taking an original stance that you clearly identify to your reader and defend using evidence, you should get a very high mark indeed.

Lecture material and what is explicitly on the overheads in lectures is relevant to multiple choice and short answer questions in the final exam. Background lecture material as well as reading from the lecture series and from your seminar strands will be relevant to the essay question in the final exam.

What is expected of students?  
This course does not assume that you will read everything listed at the end of lectures. It does encourage you to read what interests you and to read the writers in the original at times rather than merely reading textbook chapters. It is so much more exciting and makes much more sense if you can dip into the writers as we go: to get their original verve. You'll know from your basic reading what inspires your curiosity to read further. You need only ask for further references.  
The best exam preparation for this course is to go deeply into what fascinates you.
### Lectures at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week- beginning</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.31 July</td>
<td>Dr Doris McIlwain</td>
<td>Seminar Allocation &amp; Introductory Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 August</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Personality Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.14 August</td>
<td>Dr Simon Boag</td>
<td>Contemporary research on unconscious processes and defense mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.21 August</td>
<td>Dr Margo Orum</td>
<td>Sense of self and self change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.28 August</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Comparison and Uniqueness: The individual and the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 September</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Personality and relationships: attachment, dispositional empathy and trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 11 September</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Failures of Empathy: Machiavellianism and Psychopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 September</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Relax, enjoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Take a break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. October 2</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>NO LECTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. October 9</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Narcissism Remorse, gratitude and forgiveness</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Make sure you read this wonderful article on remorse <a href="#">McWilliams and Lependorf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. October 16</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Stable traits and transient states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. October 23</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Does Personality change over time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. October 30</td>
<td>Doris</td>
<td>Telling Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. November 6</td>
<td>Amanda ?</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Don’t even dream of plagiarizing: always cite your sources, as it shows your scholarship. I adhere to the university policy regarding plagiarism and send ALL instances of it to the Divisional Disciplinary Committee. Plagiarising erodes what trust there is left in a system. Penalties are severe and it goes on your record with lasting consequences.*

Each of the following assessment tasks prepares you for some feature of the final exam. The ten-point summary assessment prepares you for short answers in your exam. The essay assessment prepares you for the exam essay.

The essay teaches you how to find material relevant to a topic that interests you, synthesise the main points of that material and shape them into an argument that puts forward your position. Not everyone will agree with your stance, but they should be able to see why you hold the views you do and on the basis of what evidence. This is relevant to honours in psychology, to writing reports about clients in the workplace, and to writing for the wider public.
Assessment task

1. **Essay**: Choose a topic from those provided by the seminar leaders in your special interest seminar. I will post all essay topics and reference lists on the course webpage in week two of the course.

**Word limit**: 1,500 words (or 6 sides of A4 in 12 point) **Worth**: 35% of your final grade.

**Submission date**: Wednesday October 4, at 10am. To allocated box outside student office by 10 am and with a cover sheet signed by you.

2. **Seminar Presentation Outline**:

A small 10-point summary of major points describing and evaluating an article or issue covered in your seminar strand. You can submit this to your seminar leader before your essay submission if you wish to use it as an essay plan. This exercise is to get you to practise achieving logical flow to the points you make in an essay, exam or verbal presentation. It is also explicitly teaching you how to approach the short-answer section of your end of year exam.

**Submission date**: (to allocated box outside the student office).

**Return date**:  
**Word limit**: 500 words (or 2 sides of A4 in 12 point)  
**Worth**: 15% of your final grade.

3. **Exam**: A two-hour exam during the end-of-year exam period. It has three parts. The first part (**worth 20%**) consists of 1 essay question (out of 3). The second part (**worth 15%**) consists of 2 (out of 6) short answer questions, and the third part (**worth 15%**) consists of 30 multiple-choice questions.

**Late penalties and over-length penalties**: You lose marks per day late, and for being over the word limit.

It is department policy that assignments are set in terms of a specified page limit and specified format:  
**Double-spacing**  
**12-point font**  
**Margin of 2.54 centimetres**  
1,000 words – 4 pages  
1,500 words – 6 pages  
2,000 words – 8 pages

The page length does not include references, tables and figures, abstract or title page.

There is a department uniform penalty of 5% per page or part thereof over the specified number of pages.

Assignment is to be submitted via the LABELLED locked boxes in the foyer of building C3A ONLY.  
The assignment boxes are cleared at 10 am on Mondays to Fridays and again at 4 pm ONLY ON FRIDAYS.
Assignments that are due without a specified time will be cleared on the following day at 10 am. Otherwise, the assignment box will be cleared at the specified time at 10 am.

Please note the following:
- All assignments submitted must be accompanied by a completed and signed coversheet which is available from outside Room C3A 301 or downloadable from http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/pdf/coversheet.pdf
- Assignments may not be accepted unless coversheet is completed and signed.
- A copy of the assignment must be kept as proof that the assignment was completed and submitted.
- Electronic copies of assignments are not accepted.

AFTER AN ASSIGNMENT IS SUBMITTED:
It is the responsibility of the student to check the Psychology Webpage (http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/assrec/) after submitting the assignment to ensure that his/her assignment has been received. If an assignment is not noted as being received, it is the student’s responsibility to immediately contact the staff in the Psychology Office to inform them. The student will then be required to submit a fresh copy of the assignment and the date of receipt will be the date the Psychology Office was informed of the non-receipt. The student must inform the staff in the Psychology Office that his/her assignment has not been received PRIOR to the first day that assignments are returned or risk a mark of zero (0) being recorded for his/her assignment.

Late submission:
Assignments will not be accepted after the return of marked assignments.

Scale of Penalties for late submission
Penalties will be levied for late submission of assignment and for exceeding the word limit

Assignments submitted after the 4 pm clearing on Fridays will be cleared on Monday at 10 am and will incur a weekend (counted as two days) penalty.

Request for Extension for Assignment:

Request for Extensions for Assignments are granted by the Psychology Office for the following units:
**For Semester Two: All units, except PSY238 AND BBA111**

*** If you would like the psychology office to take care of the extensions for your unit, please add the note below in your unit outline and send an email to the psychology office to inform the staff.

Ordinarily, no extension of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request this in writing by completing a Request for Extension on Written Work form available outside C3A 301 with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar). The form and the supporting documentary evidence must be submitted to the Psychology Office (C3A 334). The staff in the Psychology Office will make all decisions regarding extensions. Neither individual tutors nor the course
convenor will grant extensions. All requests for extensions should be made prior to the due date for the assignment.

MID-SEMESTER EXAMS
All students must attend the mid-semester exam at the same time. There is no separate arrangements available for evening students to sit this exam.

Students who are unable to sit the mid-semester exam at the specified time must submit an Advice of Absence form (and Professional Authority if reason is medical clearly stating the reasons for the absence from the exam. This should be submitted to the Student Enquiry Services as soon as possible with a copy to Psychology Office in C3A. The unit chair(s) will determine eligibility for a late mid-semester exam and notify the eligible students about the time and location of the exam. There will be only one alternative time.

Special Exams:

(1) Requests in writing accompanied by a completed Advice of Absence form (available from http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/USSAbsence.pdf) will only be considered.
(2) Any absence not occasioned by illness or severe misadventure will unlikely be considered.
(3) Justification to the Head of Division (on a pink form) will be required
(4) Correspondence and form will be lodged in the student’s file.

Exam

The University Examination period

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf
If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

**Supplementary Examination in the Department of Psychology will be held on the:**
13 December 2007 and 14 December 2007 for Semester Two 2007

**Supplementary Exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit.**

**Instructions on applying for sitting of a supplementary exam is available from the website, [www.psy.mq.edu.au/specond](http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/specond). It is the student’s responsibility to follow the steps outlined in this website.**

**Students awarded a supplementary will NOT be sent a letter. It is the student’s responsibility to check the noticeboard or the web if a supplementary exam has been granted. Students who are granted to sit for a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified dates. It is also the student’s responsibility to email the Psychology Office, psy_off@psy.mq.edu.au to confirm attendance to the supplementary exams.**

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, that is the final day of the official examination period.

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**PLAGIARISM**

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: “Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own.” Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University’s rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University’s practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at: [http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/)

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

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**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING**
Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (that is, the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receive a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.


STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au

On matters pertaining to the regulations, the Registrar’s Office should be consulted or, within the Department of Psychology, Dr Julia Irwin, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students with disabilities who have problems within the Department should consult Dr Eugene Chekaluk. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff you should consult the Head of Department.

If you have a major difficulty associated with writing skills, you could enrol in a short course on writing skills. For details go to: http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing_skills/index.htm

APPEALS AGAINST GRADES

APPLICATION FOR A REMARK AFTER ASSIGNMENTS ARE MARKED AND RETURNED
If a student has a problem with the mark given for a particular assignment, the student should first speak with the marker to discuss the matter. If difficulties and differences continue, a student can apply for a remark of an assignment by completing an Application for Remark (obtainable from the Psychology Office or downloaded from http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/pdf/remarkform.pdf) to which must be attached the original assignment and fresh unmarked copy (for the new marker). The form and attachments must be lodged at the Psychology Office within two weeks of the date of receipt of the assignment.

The unit chair will arrange for the assignment to be marked by another relevant staff member teaching that unit and the assignment will be returned to the student via the Psychology Office. The final mark will be an agreed mark by the first and second marker and the unit chair, if the unit chair is not the original marker. The final mark can be sustained, raised or lowered.

APPEALS AGAINST FINAL GRADES

If a student wishes to appeal against a final grade, the student should see the course chair first. However, formal appeal must be lodged with the Head of Division by the date stipulated on the Handbook of Undergraduate Studies. Failure to follow these procedures is likely to result in a request/appeal being disallowed.
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<td>PSY 104</td>
<td>½ mark per day</td>
<td>½ mark per half a page or part thereof over the specified number of pages</td>
<td>PSY 105</td>
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<td>½ mark for each ½ page</td>
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<td>PSY 238</td>
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<td>1 ½ mark per page over the 8 page limit</td>
<td>PSY 241</td>
<td>1 mark per day</td>
<td>5% per page</td>
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<td>PSY 307</td>
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<td>PSY 303</td>
<td>½ mark per day</td>
<td>5% per page</td>
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<td>PSY 318</td>
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<td>PSY 332</td>
<td>½ mark out of 40 per day</td>
<td>2 marks out of 40 per page over 8 page limit</td>
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<td>PSY 334</td>
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Not available – not available in the unit outline.