

Module code	PSY731	Level	7
Module title	Psychopathology and Individual Differences		
Status	Core		
Teaching Period	Spring		
Courses on which the module is taught	MSc Psychology (Conversion Course)		
Prerequisite modules	NA		
Notional learning hours	200	Credit value	20
		ECTS Credits	10
Field trips?	<i>There will be field trip(s) which be covered by the fees (i.e., museum tickets)</i>		
Additional costs	<i>Students will have to cover personal expenses (travel, meals, etc.)</i>		
Content notes	<i>The module has a content warning attached: Mental health disorders</i>		

1. Module description

Psychopathology is the study of mental illness and includes the signs and symptoms of mental disorders. Individual differences are the enduring psychological characteristics that distinguish one person from another and help to define each person. In this module you will investigate personality, intelligence, emotion, motivation, and mental health (including social, biological and cognitive processes) in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. You will study the symptoms, classifications, and therapies of mental disorders. You will evaluate current research, theories, and treatments of mental disorders, and positive psychology techniques.

At the end of this module, you will be able to apply advanced problem-solving techniques and critically evaluate mental health conditions to develop ideas and make decisions on assessments and interventions. You will further develop your interpersonal skills and apply psychological knowledge and theories in personal and professional contexts and environments.

2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

Decision making (MLO4)

Formulate informed decisions in complex situations using critical and reflexive thinking in relation to mental health and illness.

Discipline knowledge (MLO7)

Critically evaluate and synthesise psychological theories, concepts, and facts in relation to individual differences and personality.

Discipline skills (MLO8)

Combine and employ advanced Psychology knowledge, techniques, and tools for practical purposes in relation to mental health and illness.

Human and environmental impact (MLO10)

Evaluate the impact of your personal skills and actions on people and psychological environments and develop ideas and strategies to provide sustainable solutions.

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

This module will balance active learning with practical and experiential activities to consolidate and apply knowledge. Learning sessions will involve a range of different approaches and theories central to the discipline; you will be involved in individual and group activities, practical tasks, class discussions and debates, and independent reading. The combination of these activities will help you acquire, communicate, and appraise disciplinary knowledge and skills.

Learning hours				200
Directed learning				48
Workshops/ classes/ seminars/ lead events	Supervision	Studio time	Other	
48	0	0	0	
Guided/Self-guided learning				152

4. Assessments and weighting, reasonable adjustment, and feedback methods

Assessment component 1:

Case Study Report

Weight (%): 50%

Word count or equivalent: a maximum of 2000 words

You will be asked to choose one case study, identify the disorder, outline the assessment, and illustrate psychological therapeutic approaches and possible interventions in your report.

Reasonable adjustments for the assessment will be confirmed with students that have a support plan in place.

Assessment component 2:

Reflective Essay

Weight (%): 50%

Word count or equivalent: a maximum of 2000 words

You will be asked to choose one personality theory covered in the module and write a critical essay combining its theoretical underpinnings from the existing literature with your personal reflections.

Reasonable adjustments for the assessment will be confirmed with students that have a support plan in place.

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	LO4	LO7	LO8	LO10
Case Study Report	X		X	
Reflective Report		X		X

The above assessment components are summative. Students will have the opportunity for formative assessment and feedback before each summative assessment.

5. Indicative resources

Cooper, C. (2021). *Individual Differences and Personality* (4th ed.). Routledge Publications.

Hooley, J.M., Butcher, J.N., Nock, M., & Mineka, S. (2017). *Abnormal psychology* (17th ed.). Pearson Education Limited.

Maddux, J.E. & Winstead, B.A. (2025). *Psychopathology Foundations for a Contemporary Understanding* (5th ed.). Routledge Publications.

Maltby, J., Day, L., & Macaskill, A. (2023). *Personality, individual differences and intelligence* (5th ed.). Pearson Education Limited.

Sperry, L., Sperry, J., & Bluvshstein, M. (2025). *Psychopathology and Psychotherapy DSM-5-TR Diagnosis, Case Conceptualization, and Treatment* (4th ed.). Routledge Publications.

Zeanah, C. (2018). *Handbook of Infant Mental Health* (4th ed.). The Guildford Press.