

**Common Course Outline**  
**PSYC 217**  
**Theories of Personality**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**PSYC 217 – Theories of Personality** provides the student with an introduction to the major topics, theories, and research in personality psychology. The course serves as an introduction to important theories/perspectives/domains of knowledge about human nature and personality functioning, representing the contemporary state of the field. The overall goal of the course is to explore the idea that human beings are like all others, like some others, and like no others.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 101

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe how the study of psychological principles applies to personality;
2. describe the assessment, measurement, and research designs used in personality psychology;
3. understand and describe the theories/perspectives/domains of knowledge through which the field is exploring human nature and personality;
4. compare and contrast domains of knowledge in the study of personality;
5. identify and differentiate between the core theorists/theories involved in the exploration of personality;
6. compare and contrast these theorists/theories in the study of personality; and
7. communicate clearly in written, visual, oral, and/or signed format an examination of issues and/or individuals as they relate to the different domains of knowledge in personality.

**Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to personality
- II. Personality assessment, measurement, and research design
- III. Genetics and personality
- IV. Physiological approaches to personality
- V. Psychoanalytic approaches to personality
- VI. Motives and personality
- VII. Cognitive topics in personality
- VIII. Emotion and personality
- IX. Personality and social interaction
- X. Sex, gender, and personality
- XI. Stress, coping, adjustment, and health

## XII. Personality disorders

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

#### **Grading/exams:**

- A minimum of three exams
- A minimum of three assignments/assessments that provide opportunities for students to practice course material before exams (e.g., quizzes, discussion postings, graded chapter assessments, etc.)
- At least one written assignment (1000 word minimum) on a course topic that will infuse the objectives of the course and require the application of course concepts to real-world issues

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

#### **Other Course Information**

This course is a program elective in the Humanities and Social Sciences Psychology area of concentration.

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