

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**THEORIES OF PERSONALITY-PSYC 212**

**I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

A. Course Number and Title:	PSYC 212
B. Date of Outline:	April 2006
C. Sponsoring Department:	Humanities, Social Sciences and Education
D. Semester Credit Hours:	3 hours
E. Weekly Contact Hours:	Lecture: 3 Laboratory: None
F. Prerequisites:	Introduction to Psychology
G. Laboratory Fees:	None

**II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology. This course is designed to explore the various ways psychologists have attempted to answer the questions of why people think, feel, and behave the way they do. To this end, major theories of personality and their applications will be critically examined through an analysis of history and an evaluation of the research that supports the theories.

**III. STATEMENT OF COURSE NEED**

This course is a standard psychology elective, providing students with the opportunity to expand on the basic introduction presented in the introductory course.

**IV. PLACE OF COURSE IN CURRICULUM**

- Satisfies a social science requirement.
- Free elective

**V. COURSE CONTENT**

The course will cover the following major topics within personality theory:

- Personality and the Scientific Outlook.
- Freud's Psychoanalytic Perspectives.
- Jung's Analytical Psychology.
- Adler's Individual Psychology.
- Erikson's Psychoanalytic Ego Psychology.
- Allport's Trait Theory.
- Cattell's Structure-Based Systems Theory.
- Maslow's Self-Actualization Position.
- Roger's Person-Centered Theory.
- Skinner's Operant Analysis.
- Bandura's Social-Cognitive Theory.

## **VI. EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### Educational Goals

The student will:

1. Compare and contrast major theories in personality, including their basic concepts and principles, views of personality development, assessment techniques and treatment principles. (G.E. 1, G.E. 2, G.E. 6)
2. Evaluate these major theories according to standard criteria for assessing the adequacy of scientific theories. (G.E. 1, G.E. 3)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the major issues involved in developing a theory of personality. (G.E. 1, G.E. 3)

### Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the major theories within the field of personality.
2. Use standard scientific criteria to evaluate these major theories.
3. Synthesize information from various sources and theories in order to develop their own view of personality.

## **VII. MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- lecture
- large group and small group discussion
- small group activities
- independent study

## **VIII. PAPERS, EXAMINATIONS, AND OTHER ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS**

- homework assignment
- participation in class discussions
- examinations
- theory review paper (optional)

## **IX. GRADE DETERMINANTS**

- Homework Assignments
- Class participation
- Examinations
- Theory Review Paper (optional)

## **X. TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Suggested textbook:

Ryckman, R. M. (current edition) Theories of Personality: Eighth Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

## **XI. RESOURCES**

- The library has sufficient holdings to meet the needs of this course at this time.