Module Description
This module explores the origins of creativity, its connection with life, love, loss, aggression and reparation. Psychoanalytic theory will guide us on our journey. This module is largely theoretical, but there will also be an interactive, experiential component.

Entry Requirements
This module is open to anyone with an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject. However, all modules are taught at university level, and students should be able to read, write and speak English fluently, in order for them to benefit from their studies.

Aims and Objectives:
- Develop students’ understanding of the topic area
- Develop an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues
- Develop students’ aptitude for study and research, including effective oral and written skills
- Encourage active participation in class discussions and critical evaluation of material
- Encourage students’ participation in different forms of assessment

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the module students will:
Subject Specific:
- Have deepened their understanding of the topic area
- Be able to outline the development of ideas, including of the way in which such developments may or may not have been influenced by socio-cultural contexts
• Be able to discuss key approaches, theories and concepts within specific areas of psychoanalytic psychology
• Be able to describe areas of debate and controversy within specific area of psychoanalytic psychology
• **Intellectual:**
  • Have acquires new perspectives on approaching the topic area
  • Have the ability to review knowledge with critical awareness, insight and originality. Making cognate connections between historical context and contemporary debates in the field.
• **Practical:**
  • Be able to describe and discuss their newly acquired knowledge and understanding
  • Have developed their research, writing and discussion skills, and extended their capacity for critical analysis and reflection
  • Have completed, and been assessed on, their course work
• **Personal and Social**
  • The ability to act as a self-directed, reflective learner, recognising and employing a range of strategies to support personal learning, including the ability to reflect on success and failure
  • The ability to communicate more effectively and to participate in small group discussion/debate, both listening and contributing their own ideas in an appropriate and clear manner.

**Teaching and Learning:**
Teaching is varied and interactive, including short lectures, group work, discussion, student presentations, and, as appropriate, class visits.

**Course Content**
We shall examine theorists like Freud, Klein, Segal, Winnicott, Christopher Bollas and others, to explore the origins and manifestations of creativity. Experiential work will access our own creativity in life, work and relationships.

**Weeks 1 and 2**
What is Creativity?
We shall examine the nature of creativity and its connection with the unconscious in Rollo May’s *The Courage to Create*.
We shall also access aspects of our own creativity through experiential exercises (pair and group work).

**Required Reading:**

**Weeks 3 and 4**
Why and how are we affected by the creative act?
Freud’s and Melanie Klein’s views in this regard will be considered. Also, our own responses to a poem, a painting, a play, a piece of pottery, or any art object, will be considered.

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Week 5
The Origin and Nature of artistic endeavour. Our own views will also be discussed.

Required Reading:

Weeks 6 and 7
Living life creatively, creative relating and interpersonal relationalships. An examination of D.W.Winnicott’s essay, “Creativity and its Origins”, followed by experiential exercises. Reference will also be made to Erich Fromm’s The Art of Loving and Klein’s Love, Guilt and Reparation.

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Week 8
Creativity and the Self:
An examination of “Freedom and inner Strength” in Rollo May’s Man’s Search for Himself, chap.5. This will be followed by experiential exercises, including drawing and movement to music.

Required Reading:
May, Rollo, “Freedom and Inner Strength” in Man’s Search for Himself. New York, 1953.
Recommended Reading:

Week 9
Continuation of creativity and the self. Assessment of own creativity in the light of the theory covered.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
(PHOTOCOPIES OF ESSAYS WILL BE AVAILABLE)


Additional Bibliography:

Please note: Psychology books are frequently revised and updated. Any recent edition would be suitable to use.

Coursework and assessment:
Participating in coursework and completing assessment will help you to develop your understanding of the subject and develop your skills of analysis.

Students are expected to prepare two pieces of coursework each between 1000 and 1500 words in length which, in most instances, will take the form of written work. Students may choose from a list of topics which will be available during the course. It may be possible with the agreement of the tutor, to submit one longer piece of work (between 2500 and 3000 words). Other forms of coursework include a review of an
exhibition or part of an exhibition, a report, a verbal presentation to the group with some visual supporting material and a written report or a case study.

For a 15 credit module students will need to complete 2500-3000 words or equivalent.

The course is part of the Certificate of Higher Education in Applied Psychology. If the course is completed successfully, 15 CATS points will be awarded, which may be transferred to some degree courses.

LIST OF SUGGESTED ESSAY TITLES (2,000-3,000 WORDS)

- Examine the nature of creativity, using theories of Klein, Rollo May and others.
- What are your views on the connection between creativity and the unconscious?
- Why and how are we affected by the creative act or the work of art?
- Living life creatively: a theoretical and personal perspective.
- Creative interpersonal relating and the development of loving relationships; a personal and theoretical view.
- The discovery of self and feeling more creative; discuss.
- An assessment of our own creativity in the light of some of the theory covered.
- An appraisal and analysis of a work of art (literature, visual arts or music) in the light of your own personal response and some theoretical perspectives.
- An analysis of the process of creating your own artefact or art object. (You will need to produce photos of these).

Student Support Services
The My Birkbeck website (http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/) is your gateway to accessing all student support services at Birkbeck.

You may find the following links particularly useful:-

- Obtaining your library/ID card: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/you/cards
- Accessing IT Services: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/computing/username
- Contacting our disability office: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/disability/disability-office
- Study skills support: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support/study-skills

You can visit the My Birkbeck helpdesk on the ground floor of the main Birkbeck building on Malet Street (entry via Torrington Square). For details of opening hours visit: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/helpdesk/

You can also call the helpdesk on 020 7631 6316.
Library and study skills resources
Once you have your ID card, you may use the Birkbeck library and associated resources. You may find the following web links helpful:

- For information on how best to access the resources available for psychology students through Birkbeck College Library, students may wish to work through the tutorial available at [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/life/](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/life/)
- For specific guidance for psychologists and psychology students on getting the best out the internet go to: [http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/](http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/) - and search for ‘Psychology’
- For specific guidance on how to avoid plagiarism in your course work go to [https://connect.le.ac.uk/p50066682/](https://connect.le.ac.uk/p50066682/) and press the ‘play’ button.

Course Evaluation:
During the course students will be asked to complete an evaluation form which gives the opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of their learning experience.

Further Information:
It is important you are clear which award the module you are enrolled on counts towards. Our website provides an overview of each Certificate award so you can decide which best suits your needs: [www.bbk.ac.uk/study/ce/psychology](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/ce/psychology)

Information is available on core and option modules for each Certificate. Your choice of subsequent modules you take should be informed by this information. Modules can be taken in any order although it is recommended that certain core modules are taken first. Not all core modules have to be taken in the same year. If you need further advice you can contact the department by telephone on 020 3073 8044 or by e-mail: psychologycert@bbk.ac.uk