

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4050 6.0 Section C: PERSONALITY THEORY AND BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS
Thursday/2:30 – 5:30 PM/ Online via Zoom
Y/2022/23

Lectures will be delivered online by the instructor during the allocated class time. Students will pre-record their presentations prior to their presentation and these will be uploaded online to the course site. It is expected that the other students in the class will watch these presentations prior to the class session. Students who have prepared presentations will provide a brief synopsis and then lead a class discussion of their topic during our class meeting time. Participation in discussions is expected.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. Gordon Flett
Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: gflett@yorku.ca

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes
- HH/PSYC 2130 3.00 (Personality)
- HH/PSYC 3140 3.00 (Abnormal Psychology)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: eClass

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated. The site will be each student's central access point for course materials applicable to all students. Students will be required to locate additional materials unique to their individual topics.

Course Description

This course will involve a comprehensive examination of the role of atypical personality structure and development in abnormal behaviour and dysfunction. Our focus is on understanding and explanation through the emphasis on personality theories and model.

The first half of this course will focus on broad personality theories, personality frameworks, and a description of the various units of personality (e.g., traits, types, motives, styles) that are used to account for abnormal behavior. Each student will be required to select a particular disorder and then lead or co-lead a class presentation and discussion that examines the disorder in terms of its characteristics (see attached list of suggested topics). The main goal of the assignment is to provide an overview of personality theory and research of relevance to the disorder.

The second half of the course will begin with an examination of individual lives and personalities. Our purpose here will be to illustrate the link between personality and life histories of actual people from a psychobiographical perspective. Students will be required to select a well-known individual who has exhibited some form of abnormal behavior, and analyze this person in terms of his/her personality structure and development after documenting the disorder that applies to the person. An important aspect of this analysis will be to utilize existing models of personality structure and established personality theories to support the conclusions that are reached. It should be noted that completion of this assignment will, in most instances, require students to read a biography or autobiography that describes the person in detail. The analysis of symptoms and elements of personality will then be presented to the class in a seminar format.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in personality theory and behaviour disorders.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results in personality theory and behaviour disorders.
3. Articulate trends in personality theory and behaviour disorders.
4. Locate research articles and show critical thinking about research findings in personality theory and behaviour disorders.
5. Express psychological knowledge in written form in more than 1 sub-discipline.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

Readings

- Readings will primarily be self-selected by each student and focused on the material used to complete the two main papers. The professor will recommend supplementary journal articles and chapters of potential use. There is no required text.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Weighting
Class Participation	15%

Assessment	Weighting
Seminar Presentations	15%
Two thought papers (2-4 pages)	5%
Paper number one (i.e., anatomy of a disorder)	30%
Paper number two (i.e., psychobiography) (35%)	35%
Total	100%

Description of Assignments

The main assignment in the first half of the course is titled “anatomy of a disorder.” Students will describe a disorder and its symptoms in detail, but also described it in terms of associated personality feathers and explain the onset and persistence of the disorder based on relevant personality theories and conceptual models. Students will independently write their own individual papers. Students will also present their disorder to the class. This presentation may be shared or not be shared with another student, depending on the availability of topics.

The main assignment in the second half of the course is a psychobiography of a well-known person who has experienced a mental health problem. The task is to provide a complete view of the individual in terms of their adjustment difficulties, core personality attributes, and personality theories that describe this person’s symptoms and attributes. The life context of this person will also be considered.

Students will also complete a brief thought paper (2 pages) in the first term and in the second term.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

It is expected that students will attend weekly through zoom. Attendance and participation will be recorded by the instructor during each session.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2022-23](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

Late assignments will be accepted but with marks deducted daily for lateness.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2022-23 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 25	Feb. 6
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	Mar. 17
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 7	Feb. 11 - April 11	March 18 - April 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 13 - Dec. 7	Feb. 12 - April 10	March 19 - April 10

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Software will not be required to detect plagiarism but, of course, plagiarism is unacceptable and will be detected.

Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

Test Banks

N/A

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 4050 6.0C course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule

TIMETABLE (TENTATIVE)

Sept. 8 th –	Introduction/Course Orientation
Sept. 15 th –	Conceptualizations of Mental Health vs. Mental Illness
Sept. 22 rd —	Units of Personality (e.g., traits, types, needs) (Deadline to Inform Instructor of First Term Topic)
Sept. 29 th —	The Healthy Personality
Oct. 6 th --	Classic Personality Theories
Oct. 13 th --	Fall Reading Week
Oct. 20 st	No class—Viewing Week 1 Presentations Online
Oct. 27 th	Week 1 Discussion of Presentations
Nov. 3 rd	Week 2 Discussion of Presentations
Nov. 10 th	Week 3 Discussion of Presentations
Nov. 17 th	Week 4 Discussion of Presentations
Nov. 24 th	Week 5 Discussion of Presentations
Dec. 1 st	Week 6 Discussion of Presentations (1 ST PAPER DUE DATE)

2021

January 12th PERFECTIONISM, HEALTH, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

January 19 th	THE PSYCHOBIOGRAPHICAL APPROACH
January 26 th	TERM 2 PRESENTATIONS BEGIN
February 2 nd	PRESENTATIONS
February 9 th	PRESENTATIONS
February 16 st	PRESENTATIONS
February 23 rd	READING WEEK
March 2 nd	PRESENTATIONS
March 9 th	PRESENTATIONS
March 16 th	PRESENTATIONS
March 23 rd	PRESENTATIONS
March 30 th	PRESENTATIONS
April 6 th	Final class (2 ND PAPER DUE DATE)

PAPER #1

Potential Topics:

Anxiety Disorders (Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Separation Anxiety Disorder,
Social Phobia, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder)

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Eating Disorders (Anorexia, Bulimia, Binge Eating Disorder)

Body Dysmorphic Disorder

Dissociative Identity Disorder

Chronic Pain

Schizophrenia

Kleptomania

Personality Disorders (Antisocial, Avoidant, Borderline, Dependent, Depressive

Histrionic, Narcissistic, Obsessive-Compulsive, Paranoid,

Schizoid, Schizotypal)

Addictions (Alcoholism, Drug Addiction, Gambling Disorder, Internet Addiction)

Affective Disorders (Unipolar Depression, Bipolar Depression)

Non-Life-Threatening Intentional Self-Harm (NSSI)

PAPER #2

Potential Topics:

The Boston Strangler, Syd Barrett, Ted Bundy, Winston Churchill, Emily Dickinson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zelda Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Dahmer, Josef Stalin, Glenn Gould, Margaret Trudeau, Ernest Hemingway, Adolf Hitler, Michael Jackson, Jane Fonda, Ashley Judd, Howie Mandel, Howard Stern, Russell Brand, Charles Manson, Sylvia Plath, Edgar Allan Poe, Prince, Princess Diana, Anne Sexton, Barbra Streisand, Charles Darwin, Judy Garland, Martha Stewart, Spencer Tracy, Mike Tyson, Vincent Van Gogh, The Unabomber, John Nash, Robin Williams, Tennessee Williams, Virginia Woolf, Kurt Cobain, Kanye West, Demi Lovato, Lady Gaga., Lena Dunham, Portia De Rossi, Kerry Washington, Kelly Clarkson, Billie Holliday, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Amy Winehouse