

# Personality Psychology, 2130, M, January 2013

Professor Ian McGregor

Week 1, Jan 7: **Myth**

Week 2, Jan 14: **Religion** (*Clicker Calibration; bring your registered clicker to class this and every week: register your clicker at <http://www.yorku.ca/prs/>*)

Week 3, Jan 21: **Psychoanalysis** (*Online Essay 1, Due night before lecture, 10%; Practice clicker quiz*)

Week 4, Jan 28: **Traits** (*Clicker Quiz 1, 10%*)

Week 5, Feb 4: **Biology** (*Online Essay 2, due night before lecture, 10%*)

Week 6, Feb 11: **Desire** (*Clicker Quiz 2, 10%*)

Reading Week

Week 7, Feb. 25: **Illusion** (*Online Essay 3, due night before lecture, 10%*)

Week 8, March 4: **Security** (*Clicker Quiz 3, 10%*)

Week 9, March 11: **Pride** (*Online Essay 4, due night before lecture, 10%*)

Week 10, March 18: **Meaning** (*Clicker Quiz 4, 10%*)

Week 11, March 25: **Love** (*Online Essay 5, due night before lecture, 10%*)

Week 12, April 1: **Wisdom** (*Clicker Quiz 5, 10%*)

**Exam Period:** (*Final Online Essay, 17%*)

**Overall Grade Computation:** 80% (*from best 8 of the 10 essays or quizzes*) + 17% (*from final essay*) + 3% (*from research participation*).

## Course Information

**Objectives:**

1. Integrate historical roots, classic theories, and contemporary science of *personality*.
2. Understand why and how personality science is conducted and how knowledge evolves through cycles of theory and research.
3. Apply personality psychology knowledge to better understand your life and social issues.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 1010 6.0 with the minimum grade of C

**Location:** Section M, Mondays 7:00-10:00, Accolade West 109.

**Professor:** Ian McGregor: [ianmc@yorku.ca](mailto:ianmc@yorku.ca), 240 BSB

**Teaching Assistant:** Eldar Eftekhari <[eftee@yorku.ca](mailto:eftee@yorku.ca)>

**Email Protocol:** When sending email the Professor or TAs always indicate the course code “2130” and your specific section letter (i.e., M or N) in the title of your email. In the body of the email also be sure to always indicate your full name and York ID#.

**Clickers:** Clickers will be used to administer the in-class quizzes. It is your responsibility to make sure to have a registered and working clicker in order to participate in these quizzes. If you are unable to take the quiz due to clicker problems, you will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. Make sure to have your clicker at class in the second and third weeks so that you can calibrate and practice with it, to make sure it will work the day of the first quiz. The model to be used in this class is made by Turning Technologies. To purchase a clicker, go to:

<http://www.yorku.ca/prs/students/purchase.htm>. After purchasing your clicker, you will need to register your clicker’s device ID to your student profile. Instructions on how to register your clicker are at <http://www.yorku.ca/prs/students/register.htm>. If you have technical problems or questions about the clicker, contact UIT Client Services by telephone, email or in person. The contact information can be found at: <http://www.yorku.ca/prs/students/help.htm>.

**Readings:** There is no textbook. PDFs of weekly readings will be provided for free in Moodle.

**Lecture Timing:** Lectures will begin 5 minutes after the scheduled start time, and end at least five minutes before the scheduled end time. There will be a 10 minute break near the middle.

**Lecture Attendance:** Lecture attendance is vital because some of the material you will be tested on is not in the readings. Make sure to exchange contact information with a few classmates at the beginning of the course for sharing notes in case one of you has to miss a lecture.

**Technology Regulations:** Please step outside the lecture hall to call or text and have your devices off during lecture. I would also appreciate it if you would not use laptops during lectures. It is forbidden to use laptops during lectures for email, face-book, or other non-course-related activities (too distracting for professor and other students). Furthermore, although most students (wishly) think they can effectively multitask during lecture, in fact, students who multitask on laptops during class earn much lower grades. Use of laptops is therefore highly discouraged. If you insist on using a laptop for note-taking only, then please sit near the back of the class so that other students and I won’t be distracted by your clicking and screen contents.

**Drop Date:** To drop the course without receiving a grade, you must do so before March 15th.

## Grades

**Quizzes:** Five short quizzes, each with around 25 multiple choice items, will each be worth 10% of your grade, and will be administered before lecture via clicker technology. Each quiz will primarily cover material from the two previous weeks' lectures and readings.

**Short Essays:** Five short essay assignments will be worth 10% of your grade. Each assignment will consist of two questions that require short essay answers (each question with a 300 word limit). Each essay assignments will focus on the two previous weeks' lectures and readings. Essays must be submitted online before the indicated deadline or will receive a grade of zero.

**Best 8 of 10 Quizzes/Essays:** Missed quizzes and essays will receive a grade of zero. There will be no opportunity to write make-up quizzes or essays. Instead, all students will be allowed to drop their two lowest essay/quiz grades, and only the top 8 out of 10 essay/quiz grades will count toward the final course grade. This flexibility is provided instead of make-up tests/assignments.

**Final Online Essay:** The final essay, worth 17%, will be similar to the previous 5 essay assignments, except answers to each of the two questions will have a 500 instead of a 300 word limit. The due date will be near the middle of the final examination period.

**Research Participation:** 3% of your grade will come from participation in three research studies directly related to course material. The first two will be completed online. The third requires that you sign up online and then participate in person at Room 015 BSB. The instructor and the TAs will have access to aggregated, anonymous data, only, and will not match your identifying information to your responses. The research participation is designed to give you hands-on experience with aspects of contemporary personality research that will be discussed in lecture. You will also be given the opportunity to see where your personality scores stand in relation to those of the other students taking the course. My hope is that this will give you a more experiential and less abstract feel for the course material.

The research studies will be administered by the on-line SONA system and overseen by TA Eldar Eftekhari. If you have any questions about your research participation, you can email Eldar. Most of you will have used the SONA system last year for URPP participation when you took introductory psychology at York University. You can sign up on the SONA system at <http://yorku.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>. You must indicate which of the 2130 sections you are enrolled in. When you go into the system to sign up for these three studies you will see dozens of other studies that the Introductory Psychology students have access to. Ignore those and sign up only for the three studies that begin with "2130 Personality Study." There will be 3 of these studies, two online and one in the laboratory. The first study will be posted for you to access by January 13th.

2130 Personality Study 1 (Online): Deadline January 25

2130 Personality Study 2 (Online): Deadline Feb 8

2130 Personality Study 3 (In-Lab): Deadline March 10

Each study will be around an hour long. Make sure to sign up early for the in-lab study to get a time for participation that suits you best. Each study must be completed before its deadline indicated above. This will allow time for us to analyze the data and present your personality

results to you before the end of the course. If you sign up for the lab study but then fail to show up without a day's notice you will not be given another opportunity to participate.

As an alternative to research participation, students may choose to make their final essay worth 20% instead of 17%. If you wish to do so, you must declare your intention to opt out of the research component by January 22.

**Medical Notes:** If medical issues cause students to miss more than two quizzes or assignments, provisions can be made for make-up quizzes or assignments, but only if students have physician-signed documentation saying that they were medically unable to complete 3 or more of the quizzes/essays on their specified dates.

**Grade Bump-Ups:** Every year dozens of students come to me after the course is over and say something like, "I missed my B by .3%, please bump me up—my whole life depends on it!!!" Because one in six students are always in the position of missing a higher grade category by a fraction of a mark, indulging all such requests would result in unacceptable grade inflation, and granting selective bump-ups would be unfair to other students. Accordingly, I am sorry that I will not agree to bump you up.