

FACULTY OF HEALTH
Department of Psychology

Course: Personality Theory and Behaviour Disorders; PSYC 4050 6.0, Section B
Year, 2014/2015
Classes: Mondays, 2:30PM-5:30PM, VC 114
Moodle site is available

Instructor: Krista K. Trobst, Ph.D.
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Office hours: readily available, by appointment

Prerequisites/Corequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0 with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/ PSYC 2030 3.0 or AK/PSYC 2530 3.0 or substitute; one of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.0, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0, AK/ HH/PSYC 2510 3.0 or substitutes; and AK/AS/HH/SC PSYC 2130 3.0 or AK/PSYC 3220 3.0; AK/HH/PSYC 3140 3.00 (after Winter 2002) or AS/SC/PSYC 3140 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 3215 3.00. Course credit exclusion: none. Students must be in an Honours Program in Psychology and have completed 14 university courses or 84 credits (Excluding Education Courses).

Text: Millon, T., Grossman, S., Millon, C., Meagher, S., & Ramnath, R. (2004). *Personality disorders in modern life (2nd ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Course Overview and Objectives

In this course we will be learning about the continuum of personality from normal to disordered behavior. The development and clinical features of personality disorders are discussed with reference to the prevailing theoretical perspectives (biological, psychodynamic, interpersonal, cognitive, and evolutionary). Students will also be able to learn more about a specific aspect of problematic personality characteristics through preparation of a psychobiography (i.e., paper examining the personality and life) of a famous person of their choosing. By the end of the course you will:

- have a critical understanding of the dimensional conceptualization and assessment of personality
- develop an understanding of the necessary, sufficient, and contributory causes in the development of disordered personality
- develop a deeper understanding of the contribution of personality to a variety of disordered behaviours
- develop the ability to write and present materials related to disordered behaviours

Evaluation *

Participation: 10%. Attendance in class and participation in class discussions will comprise 10% of your final grade.

Exams: 40%. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, each worth 20% of your final grade. These two exams will cover the readings and lecture materials reviewed in the time frame indicated. Multiple choice and short essay questions will be included.

Presentations: 15% In the first term, students will prepare and present a brief (5 minute) presentation regarding the famous person they have chosen for their psychobiography; the topic and ideas are to be conveyed in order to receive feedback and suggestions from class members. This component comprises 5% of the final grade. In the second term, students will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation covering the highlights of their analysis of the character and life of the person they have chosen to be the subject of their psychobiography. This component comprises 10% of the final course grade.

Paper topic summary: 10%. Students will submit a 2-3 page summary of how they plan to approach and structure their psychobiography paper. This component comprises 10% of your final grade.

Paper: 25%. Students will submit an approximately 15-page (written pages, before the references) psychobiography on a famous person (approved by instructor). More information regarding the form and content of the paper will be discussed in class. The paper comprises 25% of your final grade.

Grading components: The final grade for the course** will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

Participation:	10%
Exams: Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Presentations:	15%
Psychobiography outline:	10%
Paper:	25%

* The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade (see the policy for exceptions to this aspect of the policy -

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=86>

** If final grades will be subject to grades distribution adjustment, it should be specifically noted in this section by including the following statement: "Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles."

*** An exam or term test worth more than 20% of the final grade may not be given during the final two weeks of classes.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties, and Missed Exams

Conversion of Percentages to Letter Grades:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90-100	A+	9	60-64	C	4
80-89	A	8	55-59	D+	3
75-79	B+	7	50-54	D	2
70-74	B	6	48, 49	E	1
65-69	C+	5	0-47	F	0

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf.

Assignment Submission: Assignments for this course are to be printed and submitted to the course instructor during class time on the day they are due, AND via Moodle electronic submission.

Lateness Penalties: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized 1 point per day from total earned on the assignment. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).

Missed Exams: If an exam is to be missed:

1) The student must contact me by phone or email or the course secretary by telephone (Zehra Bandhu ext. 66232) within 48 hours of the examination. You must clearly state the following:

- your name (it helps to spell your last name)
- your student number,
- course and section
- phone number at which you can be reached
- best time to call you back

2) If you cannot contact me or the secretary during this 48 hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

3) Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed examination must be provided at the time specified by the instructor. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed examination.

What is appropriate documentation?

a) Medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an attending physician's statement or a statement by a psychologist or counselor. The physician's statement must include the following: i) full name, mailing address, and telephone number of the physician. ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to write the exam.

You MUST use the recommended physician's form found at

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement

NOTE: the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

b) Non-medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports,

airline/bus ticket/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. *Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.*

4) The manner in which the missed examination (which has been legitimately documented) is handled will be at the discretion of the course director. E.g., In the case of a make-up exam, you must be prepared to write the test at the make-up date. Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test/exam. YOU must check with me for the date and time of the make-up. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). You should be aware that if you miss the exam before the official drop date, you may not have the requisite feedback on your course work to determine if you need to drop the course or not. As a result, it is in your best interest to write the exam at the time it is scheduled.

Writing Help: If you would like professional assistance while writing your paper, please talk to the writing department, <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/> Online writing help websites are unlikely to be an adequate resource. I welcome your requests for help with writing. For APA style, please purchase the APA manual or see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Library Skills: For general assistance using the library, see <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/undergraduate/>. If you need help locating research articles, the psycinfo database and Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) provide excellent search tools. A tutorial on how to locate and download articles is at <http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/index-policies.html>

York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Cheating/Plagiarism/Impersonation

The University does not look favorably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism. You can find them listed on pages 6-7 of the Undergraduate Psychology Supplemental Calendar. In summary, you can avoid problems by following some simple rules. a) Do your own work and present your own ideas in your own words. Do not merely repeat or reword sections from other sources. b) Don't copy from friends or neighbors and don't let friends or neighbors copy from you. c) If you have any doubts about the appropriateness of what you are doing -- ASK.

York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website:
<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

LECTURE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READINGS
Fall Term

Date		Lecture Topic	Readings
Sept. 8 th	Week 1	Foundations of Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 1
Sept. 15 th	Week 2	Contemporary Approaches to Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 2
Sept. 22 nd		<i>Last day to enroll without permission of the course instructor.</i>	
Sept. 22 nd	Week 3	Development of Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 3
Sept. 29 th	Week 4	Personality and Personality Disorder Assessment	Chapter 4
Oct. 6 th	Week 5	Paradigms of Personality Assessment	NA
Oct. 13 th		Thanksgiving Holiday	
Oct. 14 th		<i>Last day to enroll with permission of the course instructor.</i>	
Oct. 20 th	Week 6	Psychotherapy of Personality Disorders	Chapter 4
Oct. 27 th	Week 7	The Antisocial Personality Psychopathy	Chapter 5
Oct. 29 – Nov. 2		<i>Co-curricular days. Classes, examinations, and tests will not be held. The University itself will be open and administrative services available.</i>	
Nov. 3 rd	Week 8	The Avoidant Personality The Obsessive-Compulsive Personality	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Nov. 10 th	Week 9	Midterm Exam: 20% of Final Course Grade; Multiple Choice and Short Answer Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 Lectures Sept. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, Oct. 6th, 20th, 27th, & Nov. 3rd	
Nov. 17 th	Week 10	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Nov. 24 th	Week 11	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Dec. 1 st	Week 12	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Dec. 2 nd		Study Day. No classes.	
Dec. 7 th		<i>Last day of classes</i>	
Dec. 9 th – 22 nd		Final Exam Period for Fall Term Courses	

LECTURE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READINGS
Winter Term

Date		Lecture Topic	Readings
Jan. 5 th	Week 13	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Jan. 12 th	Week 14	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Jan. 19 th	Week 15	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Jan. 26 th	Week 16	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Feb. 2 nd	Week 17	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Feb. 6 th		<i>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade.</i>	
Feb. 9 th	Week 18	The Dependent Personality The Histrionic Personality	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
Feb. 14 th – Feb. 20 th		Reading Week	
Feb. 23 rd	Week 19	The Narcissistic Personality The Schizoid Personality ***Paper proposals due (2-3 pages): 10% of grade***	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Mar. 2 nd	Week 20	The Schizotypal Personality The Paranoid Personality	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Mar. 9 th	Week 21	The Borderline Personality Proposed Personality Disorders	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
Mar. 16 th	Week 22	Special Topics in Personality and Problem Behaviours	NA
Mar. 23 rd	Week 23	Special Topics in Personality and Problem Behaviours	NA
Mar. 30 th	Week 24	Special Topics in Personality and Problem Behaviours	NA
Apr. 6 th	NA	No class Psychobiography Due	
Apr. 8 th – 24 th		Final Exam Period. Final exam to be scheduled by the Registrar. Date: TBA Final Exam: 20% of Final Course Grade Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and Lectures from Feb. 9th, 23rd & Mar. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd 30th.	