

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4050 Section C
PERSONALITY THEORY AND BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS
2016/2017 Year

Instructor Information

Instructor: Krista K. Trobst, Ph.D.
Office: 219 BSB
Office Phone: 416-736-2100 ext. 33760
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: trobst@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 (excluding (EDUC) education courses)

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

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.

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.

Specific Learning Objectives

- 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

Required Text

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

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Mini Presentation	varies	5%
Exam 1	November 30th, 2016	20%
Presentation	varies	10%
Paper Proposal	March 1st, 2017	10%
Exam 2	April 5th, 2017	20%
Psychobiography	April 17th, 2017	25%
Participation	Throughout	10%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

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 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 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes)

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

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.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Important Dates](#)

Important dates	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 18
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Feb. 1
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript – see note below)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 5	Feb. 11 - Apr. 5	March 11 - Apr. 5

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

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.

Test Banks:

The use of test banks is not permitted in this course and may be considered a potential breach of academic honesty. This includes but is not limited to; buying or selling test banks.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

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 [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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:

Fall Term

Date		Lecture Topic	Readings
Sept. 14 th	Week 1	Foundations of Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 1
Sept. 21 st	Week 2	Contemporary Approaches to Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 2
Sept. 24 th		<i>Last day to enroll without permission of the course instructor.</i>	
Sept. 28 th	Week 3	Development of Personality and Personality Disorders	Chapter 3
Oct. 5 th	Week 4	Personality and Personality Disorder Assessment	Chapter 4
Oct. 12 th	Week 5	Paradigms of Personality Assessment	NA
Oct. 19 st	Week 6	Psychotherapy of Personality Disorders	Chapter 4
Oct. 19 th		<i>Last day to enroll with permission of the course instructor.</i>	
Oct. 26 th	Week 7	The Antisocial Personality Psychopathy	Chapter 5
Oct. 27 – Oct. 30 th		<i>Co-curricular days. Classes, examinations, and tests will not be held. The University itself will be open and administrative services available.</i>	
Nov. 2 nd	Week 8	The Avoidant Personality The Obsessive-Compulsive Personality	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Nov. 9 th	Week 9	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Nov. 16 th	Week 10	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Nov. 23 rd	Week 11	Student Presentations of Subjects of Psychobiography	NA
Nov. 30 th	Week 12	Midterm Exam: 20% of Final Course Grade; Multiple Choice and Short Answer Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 Lectures from Sept. 16th to Nov. 4th	
Dec. 5 th		<i>Last day of classes</i>	
Dec. 7 th – 21 st		Final Exam Period for Fall Term Courses	

Winter Term

Date		Lecture Topic	Readings
Jan. 11 th	Week 13	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Jan. 18 th	Week 14	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Jan. 25 th	Week 15	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Feb. 1 st	Week 16	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Feb. 8 th	Week 17	Student Presentations 15-20 min. overview of psychobiography	NA
Feb. 10 th		<i>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade.</i>	
Feb. 15 th	Week 18	The Dependent Personality The Histrionic Personality	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
Feb. 13th - Feb. 19th		<i>Reading Week</i>	
Mar. 1 st	Week 19	The Narcissistic Personality The Schizoid Personality ***Paper proposals due (2-3 pages): 10% of grade***	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Mar. 8 th	Week 20	The Schizotypal Personality The Paranoid Personality	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Mar. 15 th	Week 21	The Borderline Personality The Proposed Disorders	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
Mar. 22 nd	Week 22	DSM 5	
Mar. 29 th	Week 23	Odds and Ends	
Apr. 5 th	Week 24	Final Exam: 20% of final grade Chapters 8-15 Lectures from Winter term	
Apr. 5 th	NA	Last Day of Classes	
Apr. 17th, Sunday 11:59PM		Psychobiography Due via Moodle	