

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4220 6.0 A: THEORIES OF HUMAN NATURE
Mondays/8:30-11:30/FC 103
Fall & Winter/2019-2020

Instructor Information

Instructor: Tifrah Warner, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: After class and by appointment

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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
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits (excluding (EDUC) education courses)

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

This course surveys an array of psychological views on human nature.

- This survey will focus on the theoretical principles that are proposed to describe human behaviour and change.

The first half of the course consists of:

- a review of traditional perspectives on human nature, and
- a review of Systems theory approach.

Special to this half of the course is:

- an introduction of a Vedic-yoga framework that organizes the diverse approaches in terms of strata of existence, and
- a look at successful application of Systems approach principles as exemplified by the clinical work of Milton H. Erickson.

The second half of this course:

- looks at current psychological theories,
- following the format of the introduced Vedic-yoga framework, and it
- consists of assigned readings and students' presentations.

The readings for this course:

- comprise of a mixture of material; including original academic articles and chapters from popular books by scientists.
- These readings are meant to give you both the experience of studying primary scientific sources and of stirring up your interest.

The grading scheme aims to create an opportunity for deeper study, thus:

- there is no one all-encompassing exam and class work is distributed throughout the course,
- there is an assignment for every class, quizzes twice a month, a presentation and a paper.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of theories of human nature.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results in theories of human nature.
3. Articulate trends in theories of human nature.
4. Locate research articles on theories of human nature and show critical thinking about research findings .
5. Express knowledge of theories of human nature in written form.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

Specific Learning Objectives

Learning will be accomplished through multiple means, including:

- Weekly analytical summaries of each of the theoretical approach covered.
- Class discussions.
- Writing and presenting an analytic paper.
- Keeping a self-observation journal.
- Working with a team.

Required Text

- Any Introduction to Psychology textbook
- Course Kit

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Grading Scheme, option 1		
1. 7 multiple-choice quizzes	40%	Sep. 30, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 9, March 30
2. 17 class reading assignments (pass/fail)	10%	Weekly
3. Self-observation research journal (2 parts)	20%	Nov. 25
4. Paper-Presentation, including		
a. team game (pass/fail)	2.5%	(presentations & handouts: weekly during Winter semester)
b. class presentation (pass/fail)	2.5%	
c. 1 page handout		
d. A short essay	25%	Feb. 10 (paper & handout)

Grading Scheme, option 2

Recommended for those who plan to continue with graduate studies

1. 7 multiple-choice quizzes	20%	Sep. 30, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 9, March 30
2. 17 class reading assignments (pass/fail)	10%	Weekly
3. Self-observation research journal (2 parts)	20%	Nov. 25
4. Paper-Presentation, including		
a. team game (pass/fail)	2.5%	(presentations & handouts: weekly during Winter semester)
b. class presentation (pass/fail)	2.5%	
c. 1 page handout		
d. A short essay	25%	Feb. 10 (paper & handout)
5. 1 paper	20%	January 20, 8:30 am

***Note:** Fail = 0%, Pass = 80%

Description of Assignments

Quizzes

- Each one will cover all the topics scheduled since the last quiz, unless otherwise specified.
- Multiple-choice format
- 15 or 30 minutes (depending on number of questions)

Assignments

There are weekly assignments, they consist of listing the main point and answering a number of questions about each reading.

Human Nature Self-observation journal.

The journal consists of recording of your observation of specified aspects of the course material. Part I involves observation of principles of human behaviour as they manifest in daily life. Part II involves observations of various dimensions that make-up a person's life, such as ego, imagination, and environment.

Paper - Presentations

Consists of (a) an analytical discussion paper on any theory within the specified scheduled topic, (b) a class handout that summaries the paper, (c) a presentation of the paper, and (d) a team organized game on the scheduled topic.

Paper for grading scheme option 2

This is an 8 to 12 pages paper that gives an analytical comparison of three perspectives on human nature.

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 2019-20](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

For any missed tests, midterm exam or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed tests, midterm exam or late assignments.

In addition, to the online form, students documented reason for a missed tests, midterm exam or late assignments such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., MUST submit official documentation (e.g. [Attending Physician Statement](#))

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2019-20 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 17	Sept. 17	Jan. 19
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 1	Oct. 22	Feb. 3
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 8	Feb. 3	March 13
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 9 - Dec. 3	Feb. 4 - Apr. 5	March 14 - Apr. 5

***Note:** *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

All written assignments and papers are uniquely tailored to this course.

Electronic Device Policy

Use of laptop and other electronics in the classroom

is acceptable for special needs situations only.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is not required, but... students are responsible for the content covered in class in addition to required readings.

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 information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

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 4220 A 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.

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