

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 4050 6.0 C: PERSONALITY THEORY AND BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS**  
**Wednesdays/11:30/VC 102**  
**2019/2020 Year**

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**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Dr. Krista K. Trobst  
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Office Hours: 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
- 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 Credit Exclusions**

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

**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.

**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.

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

### Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Participation	Throughout	10%
Mini Presentation	Varies – Fall Term	5%
Presentation	Varies – Winter Term	10%
Exam 1	November 27th, 2019	20%
Paper Proposal	February 26th, 2020	10%
Exam 2	April 3rd, 2020	20%
Psychobiography	April 20th, 2020	25%
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 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 proposal/outline: 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.

**Assignment Submission:** Assignments for this course are to be submitted electronically via Moodle prior to the stipulated deadline.

### **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](#))

### **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://myacademicrecord.students.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 submitted electronically via Moodle prior to the stipulated deadline.

**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:** Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed examination must be provided. 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. A link to this form is provided above.

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 the instructor or TAs 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: [Fall/Winter 2019-20 - Important Dates](#)

	<b>FALL (F)</b>	<b>YEAR (Y)</b>	<b>WINTER (W)</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 17	Sept. 17	Jan. 19
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> 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.*

## 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 4050C 6.0 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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