

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2130 3.0 C: PERSONALITY
Monday @ 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. online via live Zoom
& eClass
Fall 2020**

This course has both synchronous and asynchronous elements. Lectures will be pre-recorded, tests will take place online, and assignments will be submitted online. Live group discussions will take place online every Monday for approximately 30 minutes. Students are expected to consistently attend these synchronous small group discussions weekly.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Professor Jacqueline Hogue

Zoom Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. *, and by appointment

Email: jvhogue@yorku.ca

T.A.	TA1	TA2
Name	Ruth Vanstone	Sarah McComb
Email	rnv85@yorku.ca	mccombs@yorku.ca
Zoom Office Hours	By appointment	By appointment

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [eClass](#)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials. The [eClass course website](#) (formerly Moodle) will host:

- Syllabus
- Recorded lectures
- Slides from the lectures
- Any other material for the course (links to multimedia, exams, etc.)
- Any announcements about the course

* Except for the week of November 30, 2020. (I will only have office hours by appointment that week.)

Course Description

This course focuses on what psychologists have discovered about the human personality. Major theories and research on personality functioning will be examined. Students will learn about how personality develops, the structure and dynamics of personality, and personality assessment. Basic questions and accumulated knowledge in areas of traits, genetics, neuroscience, evolutionary forces, self and identity, intrapsychic aspects, regulation and motivation, and cognition as they apply to the human personality will be studied. References to Canadian culture as they apply to personality psychology will be integrated throughout.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of psychological determinants of personality.
2. Describe and evaluate current theory and research in personality psychology.
3. Understand and interpret principles of personality psychology in everyday life.
4. Define causes of human personality from different perspectives.

Specific Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, student should specifically be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the building blocks of human personality and think across and beyond these individual elements to understand personality functioning.
2. Understand how psychologists test theories of personality.
3. Understand how psychologists assess personality.
4. Identify personality psychology in everyday lives.

Required Text

***Physical book:** Miserandino, M., & Porter, S. (2015). *Personality psychology: Foundations and findings* (1st Canadian Edition). Pearson. ISBN-10: 0205897452 / ISBN-13: 9780205897452

This textbook is available to order through the campus bookstore. Textbooks sent to a Canadian address have free shipping this year. There are also options to rent the **e-text** version at a lower cost for a period of time, such as [this one](#). Kindle, loose-leaf, and hardcopy options for varying prices can be found online as well. This textbook will enhance the content provided in lectures.

Location

This is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Article Evaluations	Any 3 weeks of the course BUT the first must be submitted <i>by</i> October 5, 2020!	24%
Group Discussions	Weekly	18%
Popular Media Personality Paper	October 19, 2020	30%
Test I	November 9 – 16	14%
Test II	November 30 – December 7	14%
Total		100%

Organization of the course

This course will have course components that we all do together at the same time (i.e., synchronous) and course components that students do on their own time (i.e., asynchronous). This course is organized into five components: Lectures, Article Evaluation Assignments, Group Discussions (including brief written submissions), Major Assignment & Tests.

Lectures will be asynchronous. Recorded lectures will be accessible via the course page on eClass. Lectures should be watched each week prior to our weekly Group Discussions. Article Evaluation Assignments will be asynchronous and submitted during any three weeks of the course.

Group Discussion will take place synchronously. Students are expected[†] to participate in the Group Discussions. Group Discussions will take place in a synchronized Zoom meeting on most Mondays at 2:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be available in eClass. Students are expected to contribute to group discussion activities weekly. Each discussion submission activity will be active each Monday following class and stay open for one week.

The Major Assignment (i.e., Popular Media Personality Paper) will be asynchronously submitted on eClass before or on the due date.

Tests will take place online and will be available for one week from the opening date.

Description of Assignments

Popular Media Personality Paper (30% of final grade)

In this short-paper major assignment, you will write about a character from popular media (e.g., TV show, movie, book, etc.) or celebrity and write a brief personality “assessment” report on them. A short-list informed by class votes will dictate which characters from which you may choose. Feel free to be creative with exact formatting, but the page **limit** is 3 pages, not including references. **TAs will not read beyond 3 pages. However, you are expected to use APA formatting and provide a reference list.** You may pretend you are a clinical psychologist who has done a personality assessment on this character. In this case, it would be appropriate to include the following sections: Reason for Referral, Presenting Problem, History, Assessment

[†] With very few exceptions with permission.

Findings, Diagnosis (if any), and Recommendations. However, you do not have to pretend to be a clinical psychologist. Although your character needn't have a diagnosable personality issue, you should include *at least* a History/Background section and a section on Personality observations. No matter what format you choose, focus on using personality theory to understand the character and provide details to support your points. You should use one of the theories of personalities we have reviewed in class in your personality formulation in this paper. You may reference interviews, articles, video clips, etc., of your character when providing supporting details (see the APA manual, 7th edition for how to appropriately reference various types of sources). Reference lists are required and are **not** included in the page limit.

Article Evaluations (24% of final grade)

Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for completing 3 article evaluations. Each Article Evaluation is worth 8% of your final grade for a total of 24% of your total grade. You may choose which weeks to submit your article evaluations.

You can submit your Article Evaluations via eClass. **No more than one Article Evaluation can be submitted on any given week. No extensions or make-ups will be given for Article Evaluations.** A separate document providing an overview of expectations for these article evaluations will be posted on eClass.

Small Group Discussions (18% of final grade)

These occur weekly, including for the last day of class (which will be a discussion either overviewing the whole term or what you found most interesting/useful during the term). We will form small groups in Zoom Breakout rooms and you will discuss in your group anything of interest from the text/lecture material of the preceding week or two. These short discussion periods are supervised by myself and/or the course teaching assistants.

Required: After each discussion, you must submit a discussion question *with* short answers/commentaries below each question. You can base these submitted questions and short answers on anything covered in the preceding two weeks (in the textbook or lectures). Each of your questions must include approximately 3 to 4 sentences in which you seek to answer/comment on your question. *There are no right or wrong answers to your questions—the goal is only to stimulate reflection and discussion of some of your questions/ideas during the very brief (30 min.) small group discussion periods.* You will be awarded **1.5 discussion points** for each submission; however, they are *not* graded or returned. If you demonstrate reasonable effort indicating the discussion task was taken seriously, and you submit it in on time, you will receive your points. If you fail to hand them in on time, or hand in something clearly lacking in effort or seriousness, you will not receive points. Submissions of a quality in between these two scenarios may receive 0.5 or 1 point. The maximum total number of discussion points is 18 points, or **18%** of your final grade. Most students are expected to get full points. These are due weekly *before* the subsequent week's live small group discussion. However, I recommend completing these question-and-answer and submitting them as soon as possible after your small-group discussion.

Tests (28% of final grade)

This year, tests in this course make up less of your grade than you might expect. (Yay! ☺) Although the nature of online testing may make it easier and more tempting to loosen academic integrity, **it is expected that you will complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination.** While Proctortrack will not be used in this course, using search engines on any device, consulting your textbook, or consulting anyone (including but not limited to classmates) while you are taking the tests are considered unauthorized sources. To bolster your confidence in your ability to complete tests autonomously and assuage potential test anxiety, there are only two tests in this course and they are worth less than a quarter of your final grade. **Please demonstrate academic integrity throughout the semester, including during online tests.**

Tests will be comprised of multiple-choice questions. They are timed and you may only answer questions in sequence. That is, you will not be able to change your answer to a question once you've moved on from it (other than, perhaps the last question, given the way eClass sets this feature up). On average, you will have around 50 seconds for each question (e.g., 60 questions over 45 minutes per test). You will have one week from the opening date of each test to complete it.

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 2020-21](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

For any missed tests, midterm exams, 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. Within 48 hours of the missed test/exam, students must contact the TAs by e-mail. Be sure to clearly state your name, student number, course, reason for missing the test/exam, and a phone number or e-mail address. In addition to the online form, students documented reason for a missed test, midterm exam, or late assignments such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., **usually must** submit official documentation (e.g. Attending Physician Statement). **However**, due to COVID-19, for the Fall 2020 term, the Attending Physician's Statement (APS) or other supporting documentation is not foreseen to be required. Be sure to complete all the fields in the Missed Tests/Exams Form, including the reason for missing the test/exam, assignment deadline.

There will be no make-up tests. Seeing as students will have a full week to access each test, it is expected that no one will miss either test other than in exceedingly rare circumstances.

In the case of a missed test, a prorated grading procedure will be used: the grade component will be distributed to other/another course component(s). How the prorated grading procedure will be applied will be assessed on an individual basis.

Late assignments will receive a 5% reduction for each day they are late. Assignments will not be accepted one week after the original deadline, and the student will receive a grade of zero.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2020-21 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 6	Oct. 27	Feb. 8
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 6	Feb. 5	March 12
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 7 - Dec. 8	Feb. 6 - Apr. 12	March 13 - Apr. 12

****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

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be normally required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course Moodle) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. **It is expected that you would complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination.**

As parts of this course take place through video-conferencing, in addition to a stable, high-speed Internet connection, it will be best if you have a computer with webcam and

microphone, and/or a smart device with these features. You will not be expected to turn your microphones or webcams on until you are in your small group in Zoom Breakout Rooms of about 10 people.

Attendance Policy

Weekly live Zoom small group discussions are an opportunity for us all to engage as a community and to immerse ourselves in the material. I expect everyone to attend. If this is an impossibility for you, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss.

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.

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 university encourages students requiring accommodations to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims

to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities. All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. 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 2130 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[‡]

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	CHAPTER(S)
September 14	Introduction to the course Recorded lecture on Understanding the Building Blocks of Personality posted prior to Live Group Discussion	1
September 21	Personality Traits: A Good Theory Personality Traits: Practical Matters Recorded lectures on these chapters will be posted prior to Live Group Discussion [§]	2 3
September 28	Personality Assessment	4
October 5	Self and Identity First Article Evaluation must be submitted**	6 (any)
October 12	Fall Reading Days (no class)	

[‡] Note that, like other elements of this course, this schedule is subject to change should the need arise. However, due dates and test dates will not change.

[§] This will be the case for each week. Please watch the lectures and read the chapters before the live small group discussions so they can inform your discussions.

^{**} Although there are no specific due dates for the other two Article Evaluations, please do not forget to submit them during the term as well!

October 19	Popular Media Personality Major Assignment Due Cognitive Foundations of Personality	10
October 26	Intrapsychic Foundations of Personality	5
November 2	Regulation & Motivation: Self-Determination Theory	9
November 9	Genetics TEST 1 will be available online Nov 9 – Nov. 16 and will cover Chs. 1-6, 9 & 10, with a focus on Chapters 5, 6, 9, & 10.	7
November 16	Gender and Personality ^{††}	11
November 23	Sexual Orientation: An integrative mini-chapter	12
November 30	Neuroscience *Guest Lecturer Sara Pishdadian will lecture on this topic and host the live Group Discussion TEST 2 will be available online Nov 30 - Dec. 7 and will cover Chs. 7, 8, 11 & 12.	8
December 7	Final Small Group Discussion There won't be a prerecorded lecture for this week. However, your weekly Q&A submission will still be expected for your final 1.5 points! These submissions are due today.	All

Additional Information

1. Referencing Style

A referencing style approved by the course director must be used for all assignments and essays. In this course, I ask that you use APA. York University Libraries provide [manuals](#).

2. Writing and Learning Skills

This course requires quite a bit of writing this term. You are encouraged to seek assistance from the following university units to help you succeed with written

^{††} We are splitting up exploring the biological foundations (“What makes you you?”) and integration (“Is the whole person greater than the sum of their parts?”) across the building blocks due to scheduling issues.

assignments, not only in this course but other courses you may take that require written work as well.

[Writing Centre](#)

[Learning Commons](#)

[Learning Skills Services](#)

3. Useful links describing computing information, resources and help for students:

[Student Guide to eClass](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)