

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4190 3.0 Section A *Online via Zoom*
SEMINAR IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2020

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 3170 3.00 (Health Psychology)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits

Course Credit Exclusions: Refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of course credit exclusions.

Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30pm
Platform: Zoom and Moodle
Course Director: Gerry Goldberg, Ph.D., C. Psych.
Office Hours: Normally held after class. Email to arrange a private zoom meeting.
Email: gegold@yorku.ca
Course Website: **MOODLE:** Check Moodle for updates, Zoom recordings, lecture outlines, grades, resources for projects!

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The course will examine biological, psychological and social risk factors for **unipolar depression** and the interplay among these factors. This will be done from three perspectives. The first will be a broad or general perspective, followed by a focus on occupational/workplace risk factors for depression. The third perspective will view potential risk factors specific to health care providers (e.g. physicians, nurses, psychologists, paramedics, pharmacists). For each perspective, students will find and examine biological, psychological and social factors that may moderate a specific risk factor they have selected.

A goal of this course is to help you develop skills needed to help secure a job and succeed in the workplace. This includes making sure you are responding to the requests made of you. In other words, did you read and respond to what was requested? Did you avoid providing information that was extraneous to the request?

Program Learning Outcomes

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

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

Required reading/text:

There are no required readings or textbooks. Students will be expected to find current (within the last 4 years) peer reviewed scientific studies pertaining to potential causes of depression for each perspective. Resources will be available via the course Moodle site to assist in your search.

Evaluation: See last page of outline re: **CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

Evaluation will be based upon three presentations, three written papers and class participation. There will be no tests or examinations.

20% Class participation including attendance and participation in class discussions

15% Project 1 (5% presentation 10% written paper) - general perspective

30% Project 2 (10% presentation 20% written paper) - focus on occupations/workplace

30% Project 3 (10% presentation 20% written paper) - focus on health care providers

The remaining 5% will be applied to your highest graded paper.

Schedule:

1.	Sep 15	Lecture: Course overview. Introduction to depression
2.	Sep 22	Lecture: Depression in the workplace - sources of workplace stress Deadline for submission of risk factor for Project 1
3.	Sep 29	Project 1: Student presentations
4.	Oct 6	Project 1: Student presentations Project 1: Papers due Deadline for submission of risk factor for Project 2
5.	Oct 13	Reading Week—No classes
	Oct 20	Lecture: Health care providers stress and depression
6.	Oct 27	Project 2: Student presentations
7.	Nov 3	Project 2: Student Presentations Project 2: Papers due
8.	Nov 10	Project 2: Student presentations Deadline for submission of risk factor for Project 3
9.	Nov 17	Lecture: Health care providers stress and depression continued (if possible) Student presentations (if needed Project 2 or 3)
10.	Nov 24	Project 3: Student presentations
11.	Dec 1	Project 3: Student presentations Project 3: Papers due
12.	Dec 8	Project 3: Student presentations

Class Format and Attendance Policy

Lectures/presentations will be live and online via zoom meetings. While these will be recorded it is expected that students will attend all live lecture/presentations.

PROJECTS

There are three projects each requiring students to provide a presentation and a written paper. The projects become increasingly specific and more challenging. Begin your research and development of all three projects early. Do not wait until completion of the first project to begin the second or third.

Topics/Potential Risk Factors

Materials will be provided at the beginning of the course to help students determine the topic/s they may wish to explore. Newspapers, textbooks, etc may be used to get the initial ideas but presentations/papers must be based on current peer review journal articles. **It is acceptable, but not required, to select a single risk factor and focus on it for all three projects.**

Note: Topics such as **Covid-19, stress or occupational stress or workload** are too broad a risk factor however one may select a specific stressor (e.g. parenting during covid-19, social isolation, poor nutrition, sleep deprivation, shiftwork, bullying at work, exposure to traumatic events, specific personality traits such as Type A behaviors, perfectionism or specific behavioral patterns such as anger) as a risk factor.

Note: For purposes of this course, *burnout and compassion fatigue* will be considered forms of depression and so cannot be considered a potential risk factor. Risk factors for burnout or compassion fatigue are acceptable.

Topic Selection Procedure and Order of Presentation for Projects

Order of presentation will be determined at the second class via “a draw from a hat” and posted on Moodle.

All Three Projects

For all projects, students will select and submit risk factors to me by the date indicated on the course schedule. Failure to do so will detract from your class participation mark. Email the risk factor as a single phrase. Risk factors should be specific and clear and be either a potential biological, psychological and/or social factor. Be prepared to present your project as indicated in the order of presentations. **Remember** you may be required to present earlier than expected as students may drop the course. While some students may volunteer to present early for the 1st and 2nd project presentation, they tend not to volunteer for the 3rd presentation.

The goal of all three projects is for students to demonstrate the ability to:

- (1) **find and integrate appropriate current peer reviewed research** pertaining to a potential risk factor for depression. (*You need sufficient research to present a biopsychosocial perspective. In other words: does the risk factor have biological, psychological and/or social aspect; is its relationship to depression moderated by other biological, psychological, and social factors; and is the relationship between your risk factor bidirectional?*);
- (2) provide an oral presentation that demonstrates critical thinking in a manner that stimulates interest and discussion; and,
- (3) prepare a written paper in APA style.

Project 1

Students will select one specific biological, psychological or social factor suspected of causing unipolar depression and find current literature examining this potential cause from the biopsychosocial perspective. **Examine if the risk factor you have selected has a biological, psychological, and/or social aspect to it and how other biological, psychological and social factors interact or modify the impact of the potential risk factor you have selected.** Make sure the discussion of each modifying factor is focused on how it **directly impacts the relationship between the risk factor selected and depression.** You may not present other stressors as causing depression unless there is a clear focus on how such stressors influence the relationship between the risk factor you selected and depression.

You may begin researching your paper and presentation with material from current textbooks, but it is expected you will demonstrate an ability to find very current (2017 or more current) experimental findings from peer reviewed journals to update this information. **It is expected that you will find sufficient research to describe a biopsychosocial perspective. You will not just provide an annotated bibliography (i.e. provide a review of one article after another) but integrate the information from the literature in providing the biopsychosocial perspective.**

Oral presentation (5%) – approximately 5 minutes (to be determined by class size)

Engage the class with an oral presentation that is memorable; not merely a written presentation which is read. A component of your grade will be based on your ability to stimulate curiosity and class discussion. You may have as many written notes as you wish but do not overwhelm others with information. **Do not read your presentation from your notes or PowerPoint presentation.** When you do this, you will likely provide too much information too quickly without eye contact or engaging the audience.

Be prepared to provide a presentation that is approximately 5 minutes and lead a brief class discussion on the topic. (If the class is large, the discussion will be brief). Be prepared to **pose discussion questions to the class to stimulate discussion following your presentation.** *Make sure your discussion questions are related to your risk factor and the biopsychosocial focus of this course.* Good questions, which link to course objectives, will earn you a better grade. (See below for further information about formulating a biopsychosocial question.)

Written Paper: Submit in APA style a three-page (typed double spaced) paper followed by a reference section. This will be a formal presentation of the information offered in the oral. See the course schedule for due dates. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.

Project 2

Start the project as soon as possible and **before** you have completed Project 1. The oral presentation is similar to Project 1 except it will be **approximately 15 minutes including class discussion** (time determined by class size).

Students will focus on **occupational/workplace** risk factors (e.g. work/family life balance, job insecurity, responsibility for others, irregular work hours, sexual harassment, bullying). Evaluation will be based on both the depth of the discussion and the ability to present in a manner that stimulates discussion and debate.

Submit in APA style a paper up to 5 pages double-spaced, followed by a reference section. This paper will build upon the oral presentation and input from fellow students. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.

Project 3

Start the project as soon as possible and **before** you have completed Project 1 or 2. **The oral presentation will be approximately 15 minutes including class discussion** (time determined by class size).

Students will select a **specific health care profession** (e.g. physician, nurse, paramedic, dentist, or pharmacist) and focus on an occupational/workplace risk factor associated with being or becoming that specific health care provider (e.g. work/family life balance, job insecurity, responsibility for others, irregular work hours).

Again, students will be evaluated on the depth of their discussion and ability to present in a manner that stimulates discussion and debate.

The written paper should be in APA style, up to 5 pages double spaced and followed by a reference section. This paper will build upon the original presentation and input from fellow students. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.

LATE PAPERS AND MISSED PRESENTATIONS:

Students are to complete each component of the course on time. Late papers will be assessed a late penalty of ½ mark (.5 percent) per day (weekends and holidays included). If you miss your scheduled presentation you must have a legitimate excuse (e.g. death in the family, severe illness, etc.).

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION FOR ALL COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE

Zoom Participation:

- Live participation in discussion and attendance
- Being ready to present when called upon
- Submitting risk factor topics for projects on time

Oral Presentations:

- Current information from peer reviewed journals
- Risk factor is clearly defined
- Presentation is focused, organized, in depth, clear and engaging
- Reading from a paper or PowerPoint is minimal
- An effort was made to stimulate class discussion (e.g. presented topical points, posed good questions)
- Presentation and discussion completed within the allotted time

Written Papers:

The written documents will be a more formalized and detailed version of the oral presentation.

- Focus on the assignment as described in this outline
- Focus on a single risk factor especially when looking at how other possible risk factors may interact with it. **IMPORTANT:** When other factors such as stressors or other risk factors are brought into discussion, this discussion must be related to the original risk factor selected.
- Literature search provides a biopsychosocial perspective
- Present a current understanding of the issues
- Present a summary and integration of findings of various studies
- Paper is well organized, concise and clear, free from repetition
- Writing is free of unnecessary flowery prose
- APA style
- Paper is of the prescribed length

Tips for doing well on the assignments

- **Focus on the relationship between the risk factor and depression from a biopsychosocial perspective.**
- The opening sentence should be a tightly worded description of your risk factor. The next sentence should focus in on its relationship to depression. The rest of the opening paragraph should provide a brief outline of what is to come in the paper.
- This is a short paper; very little space should be dedicated to prevalence of the risk factor (usually one sentence).
- The causes of the risk factor are not the focus of the paper and should be kept to a minimum unless depression or a byproduct of depression is involved.
- Do not dwell on the basics of stress unless there is a specific or unique reason to discuss this in relation to your selected risk factor. The basics of the stress response (e.g. the pathways, the impact of cortisol) were part of the prerequisite course.
- Do not list stressors that might be concurrent with a job unless you demonstrate the relationship to the selected risk factor. The less the relationship, the briefer the discussion of these other stressors.

- Methods of dealing with the problem of your selected risk factor are not part of the project, however, you may briefly mention these.

Oral Presentations

- Focus discussion question(s) on your selected risk factor. Relate questions to the biopsychosocial approach. *Good biopsychosocial questions generated out of the studies you reviewed can earn you extra credit.*
- Speak clearly
- Find creative ways to keep the attention of classmates
- Do not read your presentation.

Class Discussion

- Speak up in class
- You are welcome to use your computer and other devices when the professor is lecturing e.g. to follow the PowerPoint online. Any hint of use of other devices other than those used to attend the lecture while another student is presenting will detract from class participation grade.

What is meant by a biopsychosocial question?

Look for a question that attends to a moderating factor between your risk factor and depression. For example, you might find that a demographic like age or sex changes the relationship between your risk factor and depression and you wonder why. Perhaps you are looking at light deprivation and depression and find this has a greater impact on one gender than the other or that therapies to deal with this are more effective with one gender than the other. The goal is to promote discussion.

AVOID GENERIC REVIEWS OF THE STRESS REACTION

You will likely find that stress is important in the development of depression but do not dwell on the biology of the stress reaction unless your description is distinctive or unique to your risk factor. It is assumed that you are familiar with the basic stress reaction from prerequisite courses. A “generic” review of the stress reaction will detract from your grade. Make sure your paper and presentation go beyond the core concepts regarding stress presented in previous courses.

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.)

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 – April 12	March 13-April 12

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enroll without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

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 (**Turnitin**)

Plagiarism is a serious matter and will be of concern when it comes to the take home open book assignments in the course. You are required to submit your written work to Turnitin (via the course Moodle). Turnitin reviews textual similarity and helps in the detection of possible plagiarism (see below). By using this software, you are allowing your submitted 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. Terms applying to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on **Turnitin.com**. Violations of academic honesty revealed by Turnitin will be subject to investigation and potential penalties levied by the Department of Psychology at York University.

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.

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 by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

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 university encourages students with disabilities 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 4190A 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](#).

Religious Observance Accommodation: Please refer to the following link.

<http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/academic-services/exams/religious-accommodation/>

You should complete a Religious Accommodation Form available at:

<https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>