

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4220 6.0 A: THEORIES OF HUMAN NATURE
Mondays/8:30-11:30/ Online via Zoom
Fall & Winter/2020-2021

The course will be entirely synchronous

Instructor: Tifrah Warner, Ph.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: tifrahw@yorku.ca Please contact Instructor **only** when it is an issue that cannot be addressed during the class or office hours. **(always put course number in the subject line)**

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

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [Moodle](#)

All course materials will be available on the course moodle site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials [you may add specific types of materials for your course as examples here].

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 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 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, 2 journals demonstrating your theoretical understanding & practical application of class material, ♦group activity, and ♦individual presentation.

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	Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 1, Feb. 4, Mar. 1, Mar. 15, April 5	40%
2. 18 class reading assignments (pass/fail)*	Weekly	10%
3. 2 Self-observation research journals	Nov. 30, March 22	25%
4. Scholastic competence (of a randomly assigned theory)	randomly assigned following winter schedule	
• team game/fun activity		pass/fail*
▪ Individually written Report		25%
▪ individual presentation		pass/fail*

Grading Scheme, option 2

1. 7 multiple-choice quizzes	Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 1, Feb. 4, Mar. 1, Mar. 15, April 5	20%
2. 18 class reading assignments (pass/fail)*	Weekly	10%
3. 2 Self-observation research journals	Nov. 30, March 22	25%
4. Scholastic competence (of a randomly assigned theory)	randomly assigned following winter schedule	
• team game/fun activity		pass/fail*
▪ Individually written Report		25%
▪ individual presentation		pass/fail*
5. Paper	Jan. 25	20%

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.

Written Report & Presentations

Consists of (a) A written Report which is an analytical outline of a theory within the specified scheduled topic, (b) a presentation of the Report, and (d) a team organized game on the scheduled topic.

Paper for grading scheme option 2

This is an 8 to 12 pages paper consisting of a comparison of three perspectives on human nature.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

This is an interactive seminar class,

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

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 quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[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 quiz or late assignment.

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 enrol 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

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

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 unless the tests/exams are open-book.

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 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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