

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3140 3.0 B: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
Friday/8:30 AM – 11:30 AM/ **Online via Zoom**
Fall /2020

Online via Zoom. A reoccurring link will be available on Moodle. This course will use the chat function to ask questions and will use break out rooms. To reduce bandwidth with this number of people in the class, please turn off cameras and microphones, unless specifically asked to turn them on.

Lectures will also be recorded and available on Moodle after each class.

Course Instructor

Dr. Rob Muller
Department of Psychology
Office location: 120 BSB
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Teaching Assistants (T.A.):

Cassy Wyers
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Office hours: By appointment with T.A. Email T.A. to arrange this.

Kyla McDonald
Email: kylamcd@yorku.ca
Office hours: By appointment with T.A. Email T.A. to arrange this.

Please direct course-related questions to the TA before emailing the professor.

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- Completed at least 54 earned credits

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of abnormal psychology.

2. Articulate trends in abnormal psychology.
3. Express knowledge of abnormal psychology in written form
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in abnormal psychology.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information in abnormal psychology to own and others' life experiences.

Required Readings:

(available at York U. bookstore)

1. Flett, G. L., Kocovski, N. L., Davison, G. C., Neale, J. M., & Blankstein, K. R. (2017). *Abnormal Psychology, Sixth Canadian edition*. Toronto: John Wiley.
2. Muller, R. T. (2018). *Trauma and the Struggle to Open Up: From Avoidance to Recovery and Growth*. New York: W. W. Norton.
3. Muller, R. T. (2010). *Trauma and the Avoidant Client: Attachment-Based Strategies for Healing*. New York: W. W. Norton.

(all available at York U. bookstore)

(also available at the link below).

<http://www.amazon.com/Robert-T.-Muller/e/B0033AFO5A>

Course Purpose:

This course is an introduction to the important concepts and diagnostic categories currently used by clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. There is a significant developmental focus such that abnormal behaviour is examined across the lifespan. Diagnostic and assessment issues are discussed. Treatment of psychological disorders is presented along with case examples of psychopathology occurring in adults, children, and families. In this section, there is a particular emphasis on the assessment and treatment of psychological trauma.

Evaluation:

There will be three equally weighted exams through the semester.

- 1/3 Exam one (Flett chapters: 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15 + classes).
- 1/3 Exam two (Flett chapters: 4, 11, 8, 13 + classes).
- 1/3 Final exam (Flett chapters: 9, 12 + both Muller books + classes).

Exam Dates:

Exam one: October 9th

Exam two: November 13th

Final exam to take place during the scheduled examination period.

Issues Regarding Exams:

The exams will consist of material from the readings and from class instruction. Most of the material from the readings will not be covered in class, and most of the material from the class will not be covered in the readings. So you really need to study both in order to perform well.

On some weeks, the readings are lighter, but on some weeks, the readings are heavier. I strongly recommend that you look over the syllabus, and manage your time carefully. Please read ahead of lectures.

Class material includes what is covered in formal lecture, but also what is covered through student questions and comments, as well as case studies and any videos that will be presented.

The exams will consist mostly of multiple choice questions, and possibly some short answer questions. Grades will be posted by the T.A.

Make-up exams are available only if the T.A. or course instructor is notified within 24 hours of the examination and a medical statement or similar documentation is submitted. Requests to take make-up examinations will only be granted in extremely unusual circumstances. Such requests are not often granted. And when they are granted, there is only one single possible time that the make-up is offered for all students who missed the exam; if you can't make it at that time, you will definitely receive a zero for that exam.

Issues Regarding Using Cellphones and Checking Social Media in Class:

Texting, email, Facebook, twitter, and all other social media are not allowed in class. They are *highly* distracting to you and to others. Research on “multi-tasking” has been showing for the past several years that it greatly *reduces* performance. Performance is much better if you just listen, concentrate, and focus.

If you'd like to use these social media, then please excuse yourself and do so outside. You are not allowed to use these social media during class time. Again, if you need to use your cellphone or check email, then please go into the hall and use your phone or laptop there.

Webpage Address for Professor Muller:

www.yorku.ca/rmuller

Dr. Muller's Webpage on Mental Health

The Trauma & Mental Health Report www.trauma.blog.yorku.ca/

Online Exam Proctoring

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has created a great deal of uncertainty for all members of our community. Unfortunately, we do not yet have clarity from the government regarding when and how the current emergency regulations may be lifted to allow a gradual return to in-person teaching.

As you plan ahead for Fall academic activities, given that the need for physical distancing will likely continue for some time, it is clear that most courses will need to be delivered to you at least in part using remote/online/flexible teaching techniques.

Senate Executive has approved changes to the core required information that must be included in course outlines to disclose to students if the evaluation scheme includes an online proctored exam.

For courses that require a proctored online final examination, York University will be providing instructors with access to Proctortrack software this summer and fall.

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](#)

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

Description of software used to detect plagiarism.

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 3140 3.0B 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](#).

Class Topics and Readings:

The classes will be broken down into the following topics and reading assignments. Note that reading assignments do not necessarily correspond to the topic covered in the lecture. That is why you will need to attend lectures and do the readings in order to be exposed to all the course materials.

- 1) September 11
Topic: Course overview/introduction to Substance Abuse
Lecture by Cassy Wyers, T.A.
Readings: Flett chapters: 1 & 2
- 2) September 18
Topic: Introduction to psychopathology and the developmental context.
Readings: Flett chapters: 3
- 3) September 25
Topic: Adolescence, family problems, eating disorders.
Readings: Flett chapter: 10 & 15
- 4) October 2
Topic: Anxiety disorders.
Readings: Flett chapter: 5
- 5) October 9
EXAM ONE.

--October 16th is Fall reading week...no class--

- 6) October 23
Topic: Schizophrenia.

Readings: Flett chapter: 4, 11

- 7) October 30
Topic: Prior to Treatment: Assessing psychological functioning
Readings: Flett chapter: 8
- 8) November 6
Topic: Psychotherapy, principles and paradigms.
Readings: Flett chapter: 13
- 9) November 13
EXAM TWO.
- 10) November 20
Topic: Brief psychotherapies.
Readings: Flett chapter: 9 & 12
- 11) November 27
Topic: Trauma therapy: Helping challenging trauma clients to open up.
Readings: Muller's *Trauma & the Struggle to Open Up* (entire book).
- 12) December 4
Topic: Trauma & avoidance in psychotherapy
Readings: Muller's *Trauma & the Avoidant Client* (entire book).

October 6, 2020

Syllabus Addendum

This is an addendum to the Abnormal Psychology Syllabus, posted August 2020.

As mentioned in the first lecture, this course will use an external resource, called ProctorTrack, to monitor online tests. It will require desktop and webcam access, and you will be required to scan some form of photo ID (ideally student cards, but as stated in the announcement on September 25th, government issue photo ID will also be accepted). While there is no live monitoring of tests writing, it will flag any suspicious behaviour (e.g. sending emails, opening browsers) during the test time. This will allow us to review the suspicious behaviour after the test is complete.

X

Robert T Muller
Professor