

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4050 6.0 B: PERSONALITY THEORY AND BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS
Wednesday/11:30 AM to 2:30 PM/ACW 302
Full Year/2024-2025

This course will meet in person synchronously for every class meeting, during which lectures and/or student presentations or exams will occur. You are expected to attend class and a portion of the course grade (10%) is based on participation. Lectures will not be recorded and posted.

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Krista K. Trobst, Ph.D.
Office Hours: by appointment, in person or via Zoom
Email: trobst@yorku.ca

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)
- 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

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. The site will be your central access point for course materials.

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

TEXT NOT REQUIRED

- **Optional text:** Millon, T., Grossman, S., Millon, C., Meagher, S., & Ramnath, R. (2004). *Personality disorders in modern life (2nd ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Because this is a relatively old textbook, getting a copy is hit or miss—sometimes you can get inexpensive used copies (any edition is fine) but they have become harder to find and the original text is now considered a classic and hence often gets more expensive with time. I therefore have designed the course in a way that no textbook is required. If you can find/afford a copy, it expands on the material presented in many of the classes and is wonderfully written and highly insightful.

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%
Midterm	November 27th	20%
Psychobiography proposal	March 5th	10%
Final Exam	April 2nd	20%
Psychobiography	April 28th at midnight	25%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Participation: 10%. Attendance in class will comprise 10% of your final grade.

Exams: 40%. There will be two multiple choice exams, a midterm and a final, each worth 20% of your final grade. These two exams will cover lecture materials reviewed in the time frame indicated.

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. This component comprises 5% of the final grade. In the second term, students will prepare a 15-to-20-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.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

Classes will take place IN PERSON during the scheduled class time. Attendance and participation will comprise 10% of the course grade.

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 2024-2025](#)

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 [Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2024-2025 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 18	September 18	January 20
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	October 2	October 16	January 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 7	March 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	November 9 – December 3	February 8- April 4	March 15- April 4

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

Psychobiographies will be submitted via Turnitin.

Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in person and 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.

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 4050 B 6.0 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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