

York University
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 3420 3.0A
Fall 2023

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This document contains two sections. Section I contains information compiled and disseminated by the Department of Psychology. All rules, regulations, and procedures in Section I apply to and will be strictly enforced in this course.

Section II contains information specific to PSYC3420 taught by K. Phillips.

SECTION I: DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

*HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=87325>

Program Learning Outcomes:

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

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

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 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2023-24](#)

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. Reason(s) 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.

******Make- up opportunities will be provided ONLY FOR THE FINALEXAM (not missed midterms). See Section II for specific policies in PSYC3420 taught by K. Phillips.**

Add/Drop Deadlines- Important Dates

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2023-2024 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 20	September 20
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 28	September 28
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 8
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	November 9 – December 5	February 9-April 8

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.

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 [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#).

Electronic Device Policy

Midterm tests and the Final Exam will be delivered online. It is expected that you will complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination unless the tests/exams are open-book.

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 the instructor 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 PSY3420 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](#).

SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE for PSYC3420 (A)

Course Director: K. Phillips, Ph.D. Rm. 253 BSB

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30 e-mail:

phillips@yorku.ca

Teaching Assistant: Ezekiel Franco Gading

*******you MUST use your York account and put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications. We will not respond to messages sent from other accounts.**

Class Time: Mondays 2:30 - 5:30 CLH-G

Office hrs. for TAs and course director will be via Zoom. Zoom link is on eClass

Required Text: Buss, D. M. (2019). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind (6th ed.)*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Course Description: Evolutionary psychology represents a merger between evolutionary biology and the field of psychology. This course will introduce students to the assumptions, theories and methods in modern evolutionary psychology and apply them to a variety of core topical areas within the broad discipline of psychology. It will critically evaluate the assumptions of the Standard Social Science Model (SSSM), explore alternative interpretations of extant data generated by the SSSM, and expose students to contemporary controversies associated with the evolutionary approach to understanding psychological phenomena.

Procedures: Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise films or tutorials. Tutorials will be conducted by the TAs and will deal mainly with the text material. They will provide an overview of the designated reading followed by questions and discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials.

eClass (formerly Moodle): Lecture outlines will be posted weekly on eClass. Students are advised to check eClass frequently for course announcements.

Evaluation:

Midterm 1	We will take the midterm with the highest mark and assign it a weight of 45%
Midterm 2	
Final Exam:	45%
Participation:	10%

The Midterm tests and Final Exam will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice items and T/F items based on the text material, lectures, tutorials and films. The Participation component is based on submitted written responses to reflection questions and exercises posted weekly. *The deadline for reflection submissions is every Monday at 11:59 pm (no exceptions).*

ALL TESTS AND EXAMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON-LINE to minimize close physical contact between students, contact with exam papers etc. The Zoom link is on eClass

Missed Tests and Exams: There will be no make up tests for missed midterms. In the event that a midterm is missed, the other midterm will automatically be weighted 45%. Students who miss Midterm 1 waive the right to have graded feedback prior to the drop date. Students who miss both midterms for legitimate reasons, will be required to write a cumulative final exam, the nature of which is determined by the course director. Students who miss the Final Exam must notify the TA within 48 hours to present their reasons. All students must write the final exam.

Opportunities to write a Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons. Deferred final exams are held on a single common date. No individualized testing opportunities will be available.

Grading: As noted in Section I, the grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York University. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. As all multiple-choice tests are objectively scored on eClass, such requests will not be met. Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

LECTURE OUTLINE

- September 11: Introduction to the course. What is Evolutionary Psychology?
- September 18: Overview of Darwinian Theory
Film: *The Genius of Darwin*
- September 25: Mechanisms of Natural Selection
Film: *Why Sex?*
- October 2: Human Nature – Does it Exist?
Tutorial
- October 9: Fall Reading Week – no classes**
- October 16: Midterm Test 1 (Lectures 1 – 4, Text Chapters 1, 2 &3)**
- October 23: Socioecology
Film: Desmond Morris – *The Human Animal*
- October 30: Behavior Genetics: Methods, Heritability and Data from Studies of Personality Film: *How DNA Makes Us Who We Are-* Google Talks
- November 6: Sex and Mating Behavior
Tutorial
- November 13: **Midterm Test 2 (Lectures 5 - 7, Textbook Chapters 4, 5, 6, 11)**
- November 20: Parent-Offspring Attachment
- November 27: Cognitive Processes - Sex Differences in Spatial Ability
- December 4: Morality
Tutorial
- Dec. 7 - Dec. 20: FINAL EXAM PERIOD**
Final Exam will cover Lectures 8 - 10, Textbook Chapters 7, 8, 9 &12