Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 4150 6.0A  
CRITICAL PSYCHOLOGY: THEORY, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE  
Wednesday 14:30-17:30  
Fall/Winter 2023/2024

Instructor:  Prof. Dr. Thomas Teo  
Office:  BSB 231  
Email:  tteo@yorku.ca

Course Format: In-class lectures, discussions, seminar presentations, interactions and activities. A class meeting could be hosted on Zoom, should the instructor participate in a conference, etc. (tbd).

For discussion of course-related issues (“office hour”) we can meet before or after class or on Zoom – please contact the instructor via email.

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
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits (excluding (EDUC) education courses)

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 through the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be the central access point for course materials (see below).

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the international movement of critical psychology, which developed in the context of challenging the mainstream’s ontological, epistemological, and ethical-political assumptions, as well as its practices, in order to provide more comprehensive theories and interventions. In the first term we analyze critiques of psychology and practice critical reflexivity regarding the foundations of the discipline and profession. In the second term we focus on alternatives developed by critical psychologists in various subdisciplines of psychology and look at critical topics, practices, methods, and interventions. Films and videos may supplement some lectures. The readings are central to the course. The lectures and presentations serve to enrich, clarify, or illustrate crucial issues from the assigned readings.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of critical psychology.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results in critical psychology.
Specific Learning Objectives

The course is designed to develop the competence of analyzing and evaluating psychological ideas and practices, understanding the significance of hidden assumptions in psychology, learning about the consequences of science, applying reflexivity, improving presentation skills, critical thinking, and the written expression of ideas.

1. Compare and contrast mainstream and critical psychology.
2. Understand the limitations of psychology.
3. Apply critical psychology to various fields of interest.
4. Practice knowledge of critical psychology in written form.
5. Engage in critical dialogue with course director and peers.

Required Texts

Chapters and entries from:

Online access - York libraries:

Online access - York libraries:
https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5389332

Journal articles and book chapters (see below). You can use York Libraries to find the work. Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Reflections</td>
<td>Throughout the term</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Usually within one week</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>End of term</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Throughout and end of term</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Term 2: Same as Term 1.

Final Grade = (Term 1 + Term 2) / 2
Description of Assignments

Overview (for each term):

(a) Written Reflections: Compose a total of 5 (per term) (600-800 words) on “Reflection Text” ahead of each class meeting.

(b) Presentations: Give a 20–25-minute presentation on the “Topic” (per term).

(c) Papers: Write a 3000 to 3500-word paper based on your “Presentation” (per term).

(d) Participation: (i) Attendance; (ii) Questions (develop a written question regarding the main text (“Essential Text”) ahead of each class meeting; (iii) Providing peer-feedback. Class participation is taken into account.

(a) Written Reflections

- 600 – 800-word reflections on the “Reflection Text” (use the word count function in your word processing program and list the number of words at the end of the reflection). Do not count references! Do not count direct quotes.
- Option 1: Use ChatGPT to summarize the text (include but do not count towards words) and discuss (600-800 words) what the AI got wrong or missed in the article (deconstruct).
- Option 2: Where do “we” go from the ideas in the text? Reconstruct the author’s main intentions in your own words (50%) and construct what “we can build” based on what was said in the text (50%)?
- Referencing is not required but necessary if additional sources are used.
- For the due day see eClass (due before the meeting).
- Reflections represent 25% of the grade in each term.
- Grading: Each “reflection” will receive a qualitative or letter grade: Outstanding (exceptional) = A+; excellent = A; Very good = B+; Good = B; etc. These qualitative comments are converted into numbers (A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, etc.) and averaged.
- For the day of one’s own presentation, no “reflection” is accepted!
- You need to submit 5 reflections per term. If you submit more than 5, only the highest rated 5 reflections will be used.

(b) Presentations in class

- One presentation in each term on the Topic (contact instructor)!
- Presentation should be educational for peers.
- Presentation should be very clear on what derives from the author and what is from you!
- The duration of the presentation (and leading a class discussion) for each student should be 20-25 minutes long (longer if videos are used or with long discussions).
- Assessment of the presentation by the whole group is taken into account (peer-feedback). Written assessments by class include sections on “Strengths,” “Suggestions for Improvement.”
- Grades and feedback are provided usually within one week after the presentation.
- In the peer-evaluation process do not comment on your own presentation or a collaborator. If you did not collaborate with a presenter (on the same day as your presentation) you may grade their presentations.
• The presentation on the topic must go beyond a summary of the texts and include additional sources. The presentation may include audiovisual material and class discussions should involve specific discussion questions derived from the reading material. Contact instructor, if needed.
• Presentations can be researched and developed in teams but should be presented individually.
• PowerPoint or Keynote (or a similar presentation software) is recommended.
• List all sources (reference list) at the end of the PowerPoint presentation!
• Letter grades will be used (A+, A, B+, etc.).
• Send presentation to eClass at least 6 hours before presentation.
• Postponing a presentation (exception: documented medical reasons) carries an automatic deduction of 1.5 points.

(c) Papers
• The written elaboration of a topic (e.g., concept) mentioned in the presentation is required for each term.
• Each paper must be written in APA format. The minimum is 3000 words without references, title page and abstract (maximum is 3500 words).
• References must be drawn from at least 10 different academic sources. Wikipedia does not count as an academic source!
• You should use subheadings.
• The paper must have a psychological perspective!
• The deadlines are December 13 (fall) and April 10 (winter) at 23:59.
• More information on guidelines for the paper will be provided in one of the class meetings.
• Grading: Letter grades.
• Organization: 1. Title page (p. 1): Title of paper, name, student number; course title; term). 2. Abstract (p. 2) (150 - 200 words). 3. Paper and 4. References [Start a new page for the reference section]. Typing: Papers should be typed in Times Roman. Use a 12-point font and double spacing for the entire manuscript. Use 1-inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom of the page. The text is to be left-aligned and not right-justified. Proofread the paper].

(d) Participation, attendance, questions, and peer-feedback
• (i) Attendance: Attendance is required for the full time of class! Percentages.
• (ii) Questions: For meetings develop a written question regarding the “Essential Text.” Show that you understood the whole chapter/article ahead of each class meeting. Questions should be complex and show an understanding of the material. Questions should be rhetorical. A good question will take several sentences (50-100 words). For the day of one’s own presentation, no question is needed! Percentages are used for questions. Quality of question is taken into account.
• (iii) Peer-feedback: Provide feedback for presentations. Percentages are used. Quality of feedback is taken into account.
• Quantity and Quality of contributions will be assessed. Participation means active engagement during the meetings.

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 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 2023-24

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment

For any missed 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 2023-2024 Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add/Drop Deadline Information</th>
<th>Fall (Term F)</th>
<th>Year (Term Y)</th>
<th>Winter (Term W)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>January 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>January 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>March 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)</td>
<td>November 9–December 5</td>
<td>February 9-April 8</td>
<td>March 12-April 8</td>
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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

Software may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. To promote academic integrity in this course, written assignments may be submitted to Turnitin for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their 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. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Electronic Device Policy

It is expected that students complete assignments in a manner that does not require consulting unauthorised sources.

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

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.

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 4150 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.

**Calumet and Stong Colleges’ Student Success Programming:** Calumet and Stong Colleges aim to support the success of Faculty of Health students through a variety of free programs throughout their university career:

- **Orientation** helps new students transition into university, discover campus resources, and establish social and academic networks.

- **Peer Mentoring** connects well-trained upper-year students with first year and transfer students to help them transition into university.

- **Course Representative Program** aims to build the leadership skills of its Course Reps while contributing to the academic success and resourcefulness of students in core program classes.

- **Peer-Assisted Study Session (P.A.S.S.)** involve upper-level academically successful and well-trained students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are known to be historically challenging.

- **Peer Tutoring** offers one-on-one academic support by trained Peer Tutors.

- Calumet and Stong Colleges also support students’ Health & Wellness, leadership and professional skills development, student/community engagement and wellbeing, career exploration, Indigenous Circle, awards and recognition, and provide opportunities to students to work or volunteer.

- Please connect with your Course Director about any specific academic resources for this class.

- For additional resources/information about our student success programs, please consult our websites (Calumet College; Stong College), email scchelp@yorku.ca, and/or follow us on Instagram (Calumet College; Stong College), Facebook (Calumet College; Stong College) and LinkedIn.

- Are you receiving our weekly email (Calumet and Stong Colleges - Upcoming evens)? If not, please check your Inbox and Junk folders. If you do not find our weekly emails, then please add your ‘preferred email’ to your Passport York personal profile. If you need support, please contact cscadmn@yorku.ca, and request to be added to the listerv.
Course Schedule

“The logic of the human sciences is a logic of the question” (Gadamer 1960/1997, p. 370).

Fall Term: Critical-theoretical reconstructions and deconstructions

September 6, 2023
Course overview.

September 13, 2023
Introduction.
https://doi.org/10.1037/a0038727

September 20, 2023
*Topic: What is history good for?*

September 27, 2023
*Topic: Ontological reflections regarding the discipline of psychology.*

October 4, 2023
*Topic: Ontological reflections on human nature.*

Fall Reading Week: October 7-13

October 18, 2022
*Topic: Ontological reflections on psychological concepts.*
October 25, 2023

*Topic: Epistemological concerns about the status quo.*


November 1, 2023

*Topic: Epistemology and the role of the social characteristics.*


November 8, 2023

*Topic: Epistemology and culture.*


https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X0999152X

November 15, 2023

*Topic: Ethical-political debates on power and money.*


https://doi.org/10.1037/cap0000043

November 22, 2023

*Topic: Ethical-political debates on social justice.*


https://doi.org/10.1037/a0040323

November 29, 2023

*Topic: Ethical-political debates on making problems.*


https://doi.org/10.1177/0959354307086922
Winter term: Doing critical psychology

January 10, 2024

*Topic: Critical psychology around the world.*


Theory and Methods

January 17, 2024

*Topic: Theorizing.*


January 24, 2024

*Topic: Participatory action research.*


January 31, 2024

*Topic: Discourse analysis.*


Practices and Fields of Work

February 7, 2024

*Topic: Critical community psychology.*


February 14, 2024
Topic: Critical health psychology / alternative clinical psychology.

Winter Reading Week: February 17-23

February 28, 2024
Reflection Text (write reflection):

March 6, 2024
Topic: Gender justice. Critical psychology of gender.

March 13, 2024

March 20, 2024
Topic: Environmental justice. Critical psychology of climate change.

March 27, 2024

April 3, 2024: Review of course.