

**York University
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
CRITICAL THINKING IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC4180 6.0 M
Winter 2024**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This document contains two sections. Section I contains information compiled and disseminated by the Department of Psychology. All rules, regulations, and procedures in this section apply to and will be strictly enforced in this section of PSYC4180. Section II contains information specific to PSYC4180 sections taught by K. Phillips.

See Section II for information on required texts, grade components, and the seminar schedule.

SECTION I: DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II) or substitute
- 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: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=87427>

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate ability to think critically about applications of psychological findings reported in the media.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of variety of ways to express psychological findings in everyday life.
3. Critically identify myths or stereotypes in common discourse.
4. Recognize limits of conclusions based on inferential statistics.

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:
<https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/faculty/health>

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.

[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 test/assignment

Students with a documented reason for missing a course component, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

**** See note in Section II for specific policies in PSYC4180 sections taught by K. Phillips

Add/Drop Deadlines- Important Dates:

For a list of all important dates please refer to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2023-2024/fall-winter>

Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)			
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)			Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)			Sept. 28	Sept. 28	Jan. 31
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)			Nov. 8	Feb. 8	March 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on the transcript)			Nov. 9- Dec. 5	Feb. 9- March 12- April 8	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 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 principles by completing the [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#).

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 York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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 PSYC4180 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 PSYC4180 (M)

Course Director: K. Phillips, Ph.D.
email: phillips@yorku.ca
Office Hours: via Zoom by appt.

Teaching Assistant: Laura Goldstein, MA
laura116@my.yorku.ca
TBA

*******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 and Location: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30, HNE B15
Thursdays 2:30-5:30, SR203
Guest lectures, office hours, and group consultations will be on Zoom (link on eClass).

Eclass: Outlines and activities will be posted weekly on eClass. It is imperative that students check eClass frequently for course announcements and updated content.

Required Text:

Kuhn, T. S. (1962). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
ISBN:9780226458113.

Recommended Text:

Chambers, C. (2017). *The 7 deadly sins of psychology: A manifesto for reforming the culture of scientific practice*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691158907

There are a number of additional readings associated with each topical unit. These may be found on eClass.

Course website: <mailto:Moodle@yorku.ca><https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=87427>

Specific Learning Objectives:

* Engage in reflective consciousness about dominant paradigms in psychology, with special emphasis the Standard Social Science Model (SSSM) and consider the implications of paradigms on all aspects of the research process.

* Articulate the attributes of critical thinking and apply them in the assessment of theories, methods, and extant data.

* Demonstrate appreciation for the constant interplay between theory and data in science.

* Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively, productively, and respectfully with student colleagues who may or may not share your opinions.

* Further develop skills in written and oral presentation of ideas within an individually selected area of scholarship.

Procedures: This is a seminar class, with minimal lectures, where students will be required to keep up with weekly readings and be prepared to discuss them in small group configurations.

Evaluation: There are 4 graded components in this course:

Assignment 1 (20%)	Opinion Piece and Peer Assessment Exercise
Assignment 2 (20%)	Evaluation of a Media Report
Group Presentation (40%)	In this culminating exercise, students will formally ‘debate’ evidence for and against claims associated with certain longstanding controversies in psychology. A list of potential controversies will be made available, but students are free to make further suggestions. This is a group project and all members of each group receive the same grade.
Participation* (20%)	See note below.

* A significant portion of the final grade is assigned to participation. Participation, in the context of this course, refers not only to class attendance and active contribution to seminar discussions (5/15 marks), but also to completion of reflection exercises that occur frequently throughout the course. These are designed to encourage and facilitate engagement in course materials. For full participation marks, students need to attend sessions, read assigned materials in advance of sessions and demonstrate thoughtful understanding of assigned materials, actively contribute to seminar discussions, and participate in all aspects of assigned exercises.

Students must bring laptops to sessions in order to fully participate in class exercises.

Description of Assignments: Detailed descriptions of all graded components along with grading rubrics will be posted on eClass

Missed/ Late Grade Components: Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the deadline including weekend days. If your assignment is late, you will be deducted a late penalty of 2 raw score points per day, including weekend days. Late assignments will not be accepted beyond one week after the missed deadline.

Presentations can not re-scheduled. If you miss your group’s presentation, you will receive a grade of zero.

Students with a documented reason for missing a deadline, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

If you are missing a deadline due to illness, compassionate grounds, etc., you must contact the instructor/TA within 48 hours of missing the deadline.

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. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. These 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.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

****A detailed description of each session and required readings will be posted on eClass.**

****This schedule is subject to change pending confirmation from guest speakers and library staff.**

****We will not meet on 'Flex Session' dates. These are strategically placed such that they provide time for students to work on assignments and/or receive feedback on prior work.**

Session	Date	Topic
1.	Jan 9:	Introductions and Overview
2.	Jan. 11:	Ways of Knowing
3.	Jan 16:	Paradigms in Psychology Assignment 1 (2 parts): <i>Opinion Piece and Peer Assessment Exercise</i> distributed Due Date Part 1: January 26, 11:59 pm Due Date Part 2: January 29, 11:59 ****Students who do not submit Part 1 on time cannot participate in Peer Review and will have Part 1 of assignment graded out of 20.
4.	Jan. 18:	Critical Thinking I- What is it?
5.	Jan. 23:	<i>Flex Session</i> - - The TA will be available to assist you with Assignment 1 during this session. Time TBA
6.	Jan. 25:	Critical Thinking II, Assumptions, Confidence, Alternative Explanations
7.	Jan. 30:	Critical Thinking III Biases- "We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are."
8.	Feb. 1:	Library Session - ****On-line Synchronous session Assignment 2: <i>Finding and Evaluating Information Exercise</i> distributed Due Date: Feb. 11, 11:59pm
9.	Feb. 6:	Interpreting Visual Information
10.	Feb. 8:	Methodological Traditions and Issues in Hypothesis Testing: Implications for Psychology
11.	Feb. 13:	Flex Week (The TA will hold an informal feedback session for Assignment 2, time TBA)
12.	Feb. 15:	Thinking About Graduate School? On-line synchronous session where the TA will hold an informal workshop for students planning on applying to graduate school.

13 Feb. 20: **Reading Week - no classes**

14 Feb. 22: **Reading Week- no classes**

15 Feb. 27: Guest Speaker from York Career Counseling

16 Feb. 29: Group consultations - your debate group can meet with me during class time

17 Mar. 5: Group consultations - your debate group can meet with me during class time

18 Mar. 7: Group consultations - your debate group can meet with me during class time

19 Mar. 12: Debates

20 Mar, 14: Debates

21 Mar. 19: Debates

22 Mar. 21: Debates

23 Mar. 26: Debates

24 Mar. 28: Debates

25: April 2: Debates