

York University
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC3420 A
Fall 2017

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 this section apply to and will be strictly enforced in PSYC3420. Section II contains information specific to PSYC3420, with K. Phillips.

SECTION I: DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OUTLINE

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

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [Moodle](#)

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 2017-18](#).

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, 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 Section II for specific policies in PSYC3420**

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

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

Add/Drop Deadlines- Important Dates

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

	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. 17
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	Jan.31
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 10	Feb. 9	March 9
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on the transcript – see note below)	Nov. 11- Dec. 4	Feb. 10- Apr. 6	March 10 - Apr. 6

**Note: 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 [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.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

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 PSYC3420 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: *For students with last names A-L*
Patric Plesa (kamelion@yorku.ca)
For students with last names A-L
Rebecca Lewinson (lewinson@yorku.ca)

****you MUST use your York account and put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications****

Secretary: Ms. Sabrina Iantorno, 282 BSB, 416 736 2100 ext 66268

Class Time and Location: Mondays, 2:30 - 5:30, CLH-F

Required Text: Buss, D. M. (2015). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind (5th 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 - 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise films, discussions or tutorials. In-class tutorials will be conducted by the TAs and will deal mainly with the text material. The TAs will be available during this time to answer questions and facilitate discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials.

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

Evaluation: Evaluation is based on 2 Midterm tests and a Final Exam, each worth 33.3%. Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice items based on the text material, lectures, tutorials and films

Missed Tests and Exams: In the event that a midterm is missed for legitimate reasons (and supporting documentation is provided), the weighting of that midterm will be added to the other midterm test. TAs must be notified of absence within 48 hrs. of the midterm. 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 midterm exam before the end of term, the nature of which is determined by the course director. A grade of 0 will be assigned to missed midterms in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation. 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 determined by the Department of Psychology. 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

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 scored by Computing Services, 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: Darwin's Secret Notebooks
- September 25: Mechanisms of Natural Selection
Film: Why Sex?
- October 2: Human Nature
Tutorial
- October 9: *Thanksgiving - University closed*
- 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: Twins: The Undivided Self
- 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. 6 - Dec. 21 FINAL EXAM PERIOD**
Final Exam will cover Lectures 8 - 10, Textbook Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12