

**York University  
Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
CRITICAL THINKING IN PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYC4180 C  
Fall 2019**

**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 each 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), with a minimum grade of C.
- 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:** [Moodle](#)

**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 the

<https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2019-2020/academic-and-financial-information/academic-information/grades-and-grading-schemes>

## 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: [Fall/Winter 2019-20 - Important Dates](#)

	<b>Fall (F)</b>	<b>Year (Y)</b>	<b>Winter (W)</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor	Sept. 17	Sept. 17	Jan. 19
(also see Financial Deadlines)			
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor	Oct. 1	Oct. 22	Feb. 3
(also see Financial Deadlines)			
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade	Nov. 8	Feb. 3	March 13
(also see Financial Deadlines)			
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course	Nov. 9-	Feb. 4-	March 14
and receive a "W" on the transcript – see note below)	Dec. 3	Apr. 5	Apr. 5

**\*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 [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#).

### **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 PSYC4180 (C)

**Course Director:** K. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Rm. 253 BSB  
Office Hours: Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
e-mail: [phillips@yorku.ca](mailto:phillips@yorku.ca)

**Teaching Assistant:**  
Maria Ayala  
Office Hours: by appt.  
e-mail: [mayala@yorku.ca](mailto:mayala@yorku.ca)

**\*\*\*\*\*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:** Thursdays, 7 pm - 10 pm., R S205\*\*\*\*\*

### **Required Texts:**

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

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 Moodle.

### **Specific Learning Objectives:**

- \*Engage in reflective consciousness about dominant paradigms in psychology, with special emphasis on 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 where students will be required to keep up with weekly readings and be prepared to discuss them in small group configurations.

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

**Evaluation:** There are 4 graded components in this course:

Assignment 1.	(15%)	Opinion Piece and Peer Assessment Exercise
Assignment 2.	(15%)	Evaluation of a Media Report on an individually determined topic (format determined by students)
SPSS Assignment	(15%)	Students will be given a data set and asked to perform various operations using SPSS and to interpret findings
Group Presentation	(25%)	In this culminating exercise, students will formally debate evidence for and against claims associated with certain controversies in psychology. A list of potential controversies will be made available, but students are free to make further suggestions.
Participation*	(30%)	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 physical attendance and active contribution to seminar discussions, but also to completion of reflection exercises (most of which are not graded) 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.

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

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

### FALL TERM

- September 5: Introductions and Overview
- September 12: Ways of Knowing
- September 19: Paradigms in Psychology I
- September 26: Paradigms II: Analysis of a Social Experiment  
**Assignment 1:** *Opinion Piece and Peer Assessment Exercise* distributed  
Due Date : October 11
- October 3: Flex Week - I am available to assist you with Assignment 1 during this session
- October 10: Critical Thinking I- What is it?
- October 17: **Reading Week - no classes**
- October 24: Critical Thinking II- Assumptions, Confidence, Alternative Explanations
- October 31: Critical Thinking III Biases- “We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are.”
- November 7: Library Session  
**Assignment 2:** *Finding and Evaluating Information Exercise* distributed  
Due Date: **Part 1** due November 12<sup>th</sup>, 11pm  
**Part 2** due November 26<sup>th</sup>
- November 14: Flex Week - I am available to assist you with Assignment 2 during this session
- November 21: Special Topics Lecture- Critical Psychology  
Guest Speaker

\*\*\*\*\***Holiday Break**\*\*\*\*\*

### WINTER TERM

- January 9: Guest Speaker from York Learning Commons  
Guest Speaker from York Career Counseling
- January 16: Methodological Traditions: Correlational and Experimental Approaches

January 23:	Issues in Hypothesis Testing: Implications for Psychology
January 30:	Interpreting Visual Information
February 6:	SPSS tutorial
	<b>Assignment 3</b> <i>Data Analysis and Interpretation Exercise</i> distributed. Due Date: February 11
February 13:	Group Consultations
February 20:	<b><i>Reading Week - no classes</i></b>
February 27:	Group Consultations
March 5:	Debates Presentations
March 12:	Debates Presentations
March 19:	Debates Presentations
March 26:	Debates Presentations
April 2:	Debates Presentations