

**York University**  
**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSYC3420 M**  
**Winter 2021 via Zoom**

\*\*\*\*Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning via Zoom. There will be no in-class interactions or activities on campus. You will need stable, higher speed internet connection, a computer with web camera and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Below are some useful links describing computing information, resources and help for students:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[User Reference Guide Computing for Students](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Website Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Further information regarding Zoom etiquette for PSYC3420 (M) will be provided during the first class.

**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:** [eClass](#)

**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 following:

<https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2020-2021/academic-and-financial-information>

## 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 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.

**\*\*\*\*\*Make- up opportunities will be provided ONLY FOR THE FINAL EXAM (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: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw20>

|   | <b>Fall (F)</b>      | <b>Year (Y)</b>      | <b>Winter (W)</b>     |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor<br>(also see Financial Deadlines)       | Sept. 22             | Sept. 22             | Jan. 25               |
| Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor<br>(also see Financial Deadlines)          | Oct. 6               | Oct. 27              | Feb. 8                |
| Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also<br>See Financial Deadlines)                    | Nov. 6               | Feb. 5               | March 12              |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course<br>and receive a “W” on the transcript – see note below) | Nov.<br>7-<br>Dec. 8 | Feb. 6 -<br>April 12 | March 13-<br>April 12 |

**\*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](#).

## 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 via Zoom  
e-mail: [phillips@yorku.ca](mailto:phillips@yorku.ca)

**Teaching Assistants:** *For students with last names A-L*  
Alex Porthukaran, MA ([alexp12@yorku.ca](mailto:alexp12@yorku.ca))  
*For students with last names M-Z*  
Laura Goldstein, MA ([laural16@my.yorku.ca](mailto:laural16@my.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:** Mondays, 2:30 - 5:30  
Zoom ID for all class meetings is on eClass

**Required Text:** Buss, D. M. (2019). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (6<sup>th</sup> 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:** I will deliver lectures during the scheduled class time. These will be recorded and posted on eClass for students unable to attend Zoom lecture. 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 and recordings will be posted weekly on eClass. Students are advised to check Moodle 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 short answers based on the text material, lectures, tutorials and films. The Participation component is based on submitted responses to reflection questions and exercises posted weekly

**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 and it will be worth 45%, no exceptions. **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. 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**

- January 11: Introduction to the course. What is evolutionary psychology?
- January 18: Overview of Darwinian Theory  
Film: Darwin's Secret Notebooks (tentative)
- January 25: Mechanisms of Natural Selection  
Film: *Why Sex?* (tentative)
- February 1: Human Nature- Does It Exist?  
**Tutorial**
- February 8: Midterm Test 1 ( Lectures 1 - 4, Text Chapters 1, 2, & 3)**
- February 15: Winter Reading Week - no classes**
- February 22: Socioecology  
Film: Desmond Morris - *The Human Animal*
- March 1: Behavior Genetics: Methods, Heritability and Data from Studies of Personality  
Film: tba (tentative)
- March 8: Sex and Mating Behavior  
**Tutorial**
- March 15: **Midterm Test 2 (Lectures 5 - 7, Textbook Chapters 4, 5, 6, 11)**
- March 22: Parent-Offspring Attachment
- March 29: Cognitive Processes - Sex Differences in Spatial Ability
- April 5: Morality  
**Tutorial**
- April 14-28: FINAL EXAM PERIOD**  
**Final Exam will cover Lectures 8 - 10, Textbook Chapters 7, 8, 9 & 12**