

## COURSE OUTLINE

**PSYC 3490: ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING**  
**Section M, Winter 2016**  
**Mondays 7pm-10pm, CLH-E**

**Course Director: Ashley Curtis**  
**Contact:** afcurtis@yorku.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Location:** 065 BSB

### **Teaching Assistants:**

**Niloufar Eshgi** (student surnames A-K)  
**Contact:** niloufar@yorku.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Location:** 311 BSB

**Eva Muharib** (student surnames L-Z)  
**Contact:** evarsm@yorku.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Location:** 072A BSB

*Note: For all email communications, you MUST put the course code (PSYC 3490) in the subject header. Please email TAs first with any course related questions. If they cannot answer your question, they will forward your email to me.*

**Prerequisites:** AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C. Course credit exclusions: AK/PSYC 3700D 3.00 (prior to Summer 2002), GL/PSYC 3310 3.00.

**Course Textbook:** Cavanaugh & Blanchard-Fields. Adult Development and Aging (7th Edition).

\*The textbook will also be on reserve at the Scott Library.

**Course Website:** <https://moodle.yorku.ca/>

All course announcements, grades, and lecture slides will be posted on Moodle. Lecture slides will be posted prior to each lecture. If you have a course related question, please review the Moodle content before emailing your TA as your question might be answered there. Your assignment (paper) will be also handed in online through moodle.

**Course Description:** An examination of data and theories relating to the psychology of adult development and aging. Major topics include biological and psychological theories of aging; age changes in intelligence, personality and social relations; pathologies of old age and methods of intervention.

**Learning Objectives:** At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Understand, compare, and contrast the main model of aging (from a biological, social, and cognitive perspective)
- Understand normal vs pathological aging. Identify and explain disorders, syndromes associated with aging
- Apply theoretical knowledge to the understanding and evaluation of empirical research examples (we will be looking at various interesting recent media reports and journal articles throughout the course)
- Complete a review paper that shows in depth comprehension of a course related topic (summarize theoretical/empirical literature, identify gaps in findings, and propose future research directions)

### Course Format:

The course will consist of in class lectures and tutorials. Various media types (standard lecture, videos, and research articles) will be presented in order to help guide your learning. There will be several in class exercises that you will be encouraged to participate in, as they are designed to assess your learning and stimulate deeper encoding of class material. One or two 10 minute breaks will be provided in class, depending on the workload.

### Classroom Etiquette:

This is a large class, therefore I ask that you keep the conversations to a minimum during the lecture, as it can be distracting to both myself and other students. I also ask as a courtesy to the class, you please put your cell phones on silent.

### Evaluation:

Assessment Item	Weight	Date:
Test 1	25%	Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>
Test 2	25%	Feb. 29 <sup>th</sup>
Test 3	30%	TBD
Final Paper	20%	April 4 <sup>th</sup>

### Info. Regarding Tests:

There will be **3 Term Tests** in this course (2 in class, and 1 in the official examination period). Test 1 and 2 will consist of multiple choice questions, and Test 3 will contain a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. They will cover **textbook material and additional information provided in lectures**. Tests will be **non-cumulative**. Students must bring their **York Student Picture ID** or a **government issued Picture ID** to each test. Please also bring a pencil, eraser, and pen.

There will be **no makeup tests, unless there is a documented major medical/personal issue**. If you miss a test for one of these reasons, you must do the following:

- 1) Email your TA within **48 hours** of the missed test
- 2) Put the course code (with section) and your full name in the subject header
- 3) Explain the reason for the missed test (again, only extreme circumstances warrant missing an exam)

Makeup tests will only be permitted if appropriate documentation is provided (i.e., physician's note, death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel, etc.). There will be only **ONE makeup test day** the week after a given test. If students cannot attend the makeup test time/date, they will receive a grade of zero for that test.

### **Alternate Exam/Test Center:**

If you require special accommodation for test writing, please review the policy and instructions here:

<http://altexams.apps01.yorku.ca/request-an-alternate-exam/>

### **Info. Regarding Assignment (Review Paper):**

There will be one take home assignment in this course. Students will prepare an 8-10 page (double spaced, not including references) review paper on one of the topics of aging studied in the course. A choice of topics will be provided at a later date. However, if students have additional ideas, they are welcome to submit the topic to their TA for approval. **You must have approval from your TA if you choose your own topic.** More detailed instructions regarding the assignment will be provided closer to the due date. Proper APA referencing is expected. Your TAs will deliver tutorials throughout the course on proper APA style, and provide writing tips for your paper. You will also be given a grading rubric for the assignment. Papers will be submitted online through Turnitin on the Moodle course website. **There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism.** If you are found to have plagiarized you will automatically receive a grade of **zero** on the assignment, and possibly face further disciplinary action. If you do not understand what plagiarism is I recommend attending the tutorials and utilizing the expertise of your TA.

**There will be no extensions given on the assignment.** Do not write your TA or myself asking for an extension. You have plenty of time throughout the course to have it completed on time. Late assignments will be deducted 1 pt (of total score/20) per day.

\*\*TIP: The York University writing center also offer one on one appointments with writing tutors. This is an excellent resource if you are struggling with a paper assignment. More info here:

<http://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/services/one-to-one-writing-support/>

### **Test/Paper Review:**

The TAs are available (by appointment) to review your tests and papers with you. If there is an arithmetic error in the grading, this will be corrected immediately. However, all other grades are final. Please keep in mind that (on rare occasions) if we do take the time to regrade your work, there is a chance your mark will stay the same, or even decrease.

**Academic Honesty Policy:**

York University has a strict academic honesty policy that can be reviewed here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/policy.htm>

Plagiarism and/or cheating are unacceptable and if found guilty, a student can face severe consequences up to and including expulsion.

**Lecture/Test Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Text Reading</b>
Jan. 4th	Course Introduction & General Overview of Studying Adult Development and Aging	Chapter 1
Jan. 11th	Neuroscience Methods and Physical Changes of Aging	Chapters 2 & 3
Jan. 18	Longevity, Health, and Functioning	Chapter 4
Jan. 25th	<b>TEST 1 - (25%)</b>	
Feb. 1st	Attention and Memory	Chapters 6
Feb. 8th	Intelligence, Reasoning, Creativity and Wisdom <i>TUTORIAL 1: APA style, Assignment Instructions</i>	Chapter 7 *Test 1 Grades Posted
Feb. 15th	<b>NO CLASS - READING WEEK</b>	
Feb. 22nd	Social Cognition & Personality	Chapters 8 & 9
Feb. 29th	<b>TEST 2 – (25%)</b>	

March 7th	Relationships <i>TUTORIAL 2: Writing Tips, Review Paper</i>	Chapter 10
March 14th	Clinical Assessment, Cognitive Pathologies of Aging	Chapter 11 *Test 2 Grades Posted
March 21st	Dying and Bereavement <i>Guest Lecture by Sean Hillman, Bioethics Fellow, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto</i>	Chapter 13
March 28th	Successful Aging	Chapter 14
April 4th	<b>Study Day/Lecture Makeup Day (if needed due to storms, etc.)</b>	<b>*Paper DUE - (20%)</b> Must be uploaded into Turnitin (through Moodle) by 11:59pm
TBA Exam Period - April 6th - 20th	<b>TEST 3 - (30%)</b>	

### Important Dates:

Jan. 17th - Last date to add a course without permission of instructor

Jan. 29th - Last date to add a course with permission of instructor

March 4th - Last day to drop course without receiving a grade

### Letter Grades:

A+ 90-100%

A 80-89%

B+ 75-79%

B 70-74%

C+ 65-69%

C 60-64%

D+ 55-59%

D	50-54%
E	(marginally below 50%)
F	(below 50%) – Failing

\*Note: All grades are final. Grades are not changed just because you “need” a certain letter grade for a specific reason (to get into a program/grad school, etc.). If you have concerns about your grades or need questions answered regarding your assignment, please meet with your TAs throughout the course. They are extremely knowledgeable about the course content, and familiar with your work, and will provide you with feedback. This is the best way to improve your final grade.