

PSY 1004.001- Parma *UPDATED 3/13/2020*

Critical Thinking: Psychology 1004 - Section 01 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2020 Semester

Class Times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11-11:50pm

Location: Weiss Hall 0B032

Instructor: Valentina Parma, Ph.D.

Email: valentina.parma@temple.edu

Office: Weiss Hall 874

Telephone Number: 215-204-5505

Office Hours: ~~Mondays 1-2 pm and Wednesdays 4-6 pm and by appointment~~

Update: By appointment only (via Zoom)

Teaching Assistant: Stephanie Simone, email: smsimone@temple.edu

Teaching Assistant office hours: ~~Mondays 1-2pm and by appointment (Weiss Hall 857)~~ **Update:** By appointment only (via Zoom)

PREREQUISITES: One of the following courses with a minimum grade of C-:

Psychology, 1001, 1061, 1901, or 1906

REQUIRED TEXT(S):

Morling, B. (2018). *Research methods in psychology* (3rd ed.). New York City, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

The Three versions noted in the bookstore are:

1. **Research Methods Ebook & Access code** ISBN: 9780393671254
2. **Research Methods book & Access code** ISBN: 9780393670066
3. **Research Methods book & Access code and SPSS book** ISBN: 9780393670073

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

How do you evaluate the strength of a claim made in a magazine, news program, or research article? This course will provide you with basic skills and information to systematically critique claims and research in the popular press and research literature. You will be introduced to basic research concepts, such as correlation vs. causation, common biases, hypotheses, dependent/independent variables, validity, and reliability. You will apply this knowledge to evaluating a wide range of ideas and research in psychology.

Humans fall prey of biases and fallacies that interfere with their ability to draw sound conclusions about situations. This has repercussions on academic and professional life, but also on personal life. Critical thinking is a skill that facilitates the identification of these biases and fallacies and helps us succeed in school, work and life in general. By completing this course, you will learn to identify common fallacies in thought and reasoning, learn to evaluate reliable sources of evidence, distinguish science from pseudoscience, gain a basic understanding of research strategies, research design, and analysis in psychology. The learning of this skill may be challenging and sometimes uncomfortable, yet for those who engage and sit with this uncomfortable feeling (and ask for help, if needed) will result in a useful addition to their skillset.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course will provide multiple learning opportunities for you to engage with the class material and refine and practice your critical thinking skills. You will earn points towards your final grade in several ways.

1. Attendance and participation: Although attendance is not compulsory, it will be difficult for you to succeed in this class if you do not regularly attend lectures. In class, you are encouraged to actively participate and in class assignments that will contribute to your final grade will be offered. Some class assignments will be discussions. You will learn how to clearly, concisely and respectfully express your opinion and support your position with evidence. You are expected to engage and disagree with your peers and with me. Any in class assignments requiring written work will be due by 11:59pm of that class day. Assignments uploaded after 11:59pm will be given a zero. Feedback on attendance and participation will be provided from the mid-term.

Update: I do not take attendance; however, it is more important than ever for you to be present in class (on Zoom), considering the significant changes we are experiencing. To help maintain some structure, the slides and homework will be posted on Monday mornings; all in-class assignments will be made available each week on Wednesday after class (at 12:00pm) and must be completed by the same Wednesday night at 11:59pm.

The in-class assignments include a group presentation, that will now consist of recording a ~5min video presentation to be posted in Canvas. Canvas has a feature which allows us to have separate group rooms in which groups of 5 people can

separately meet up online. The presentation instructions as well as the group assignments will be presented on Friday, March 27th. The video-presentation will need to be submitted on Canvas by Friday, April 24th by 11.59pm.

2. Homework: To help you stay up-to-date and to prepare for the exams, you will be asked to complete homework. Each homework assignment will open on Monday and will be due on Sunday of that week. The homework will consist in reading materials, answering questions, provide observations. For any assignment not completed at 100%, you will receive a proportionate percentage of 10 points. If you are unable to complete an assignment by the deadline, you can use one of your two excuses (see below the section *Possibility of excusing oneself*). If two excuses have already been used, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

3. Exams: There will be three in-class (partial) exams, whose grade will be averaged into the exam portion of your final grade. If you failed one of the in-class (partial) exams or you want to improve your final grade, you can opt in and take the final exam on the whole course material at the end of the course. If you end up completing your three in-class (partial) exams and your optional final, I will keep as your final grade the highest grade you received between the average of the in-class (partial) exams and the final. In all cases, the materials on which you will be tested refer to the book chapters assigned, and the material covered in class. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and will be graded on a 100-point scale. On exam days, you are required to remain in the classroom until you submit your exam unless accommodations have been made through Disability Support Services. Electronic devices of any kind are not permitted to be on or in view during exams. All partial exams or the optional final exam must be taken in order to earn a passing grade in this class.

Update: Exams 2, 3, and the Final Exam will take place online in Canvas. Exams 2 and 3 will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions only. Each exam will be made available for one hour during regular class time and you will only have one attempt to complete it. The Final Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, and a long-answer question.

4. First-hand experience with research: Modern psychology is a research science, and much of the material presented in the text and lectures will be results of research studies. In order to give you a better understanding of the research process, you can choose among three options.

4a. Be a participant: Many faculty members of the Temple Psychology Department carry out research, as advertised in SONA. You can participate in such research as an experimental participant for a total of 8 hours during the semester. Please note that you may receive credit for no more than 4 credits through on-line studies. That is, you must attend in-person research sessions for at least 4 credits. Completion of this requirement is due on April 27, 2020. Please note that I do not have direct control over what or when studies are posted for SONA participation.

Tips: Starting early in the semester, sign-up information for research studies will be available on-line. Each sign-up will describe the study, tell you where it will take place, and tell you how many hours it will take and how many credits it is worth. Go to the web site for research and sign up for sessions at times that are convenient to you (details are given below). You may be able to participate in some of the studies on-line, but for most of them there will be a location on campus for the study. After you attend the research study session, you will receive a credit notification by email. To receive credit for participation, you must email this notification to your recitation leader or print it out and turn it in to your recitation leader. Keep the credit notification in your files, just in case, so you will have a record at the end of the semester.

Once you sign up for a research appointment, it is your obligation to be there at your assigned time; **if you arrive on time for your first seven hours of research credits, then the eighth hour is waived.** In other words, if you attend seven hours on time, then that's all you have to do. If you cannot attend a scheduled research session, you must remove your name from the sign-up sheet in order to be excused from that session. You can do that on-line up to a deadline that is posted for each experiment. If you miss an appointment without removing your name on time, then you must complete eight hours of research.

If you arrive for a session at your assigned time, and the researcher is not there, you will receive credit for attending. Leave a note for the researcher, including your name, recitation number, time of appointment, time of your arrival at the location, and name of your TA. On receipt of this note, the researcher will send a credit sheet to your TA. Also, be sure to report the session to your TA.

Update: SONA participation that has been completed by Friday, March 13th should be submitted to either Stephanie Simone or Dr. Parma by Sunday March 15th. For the remainder of the semester, obtaining SONA credits can only be done by participating in online studies. From March 14th, you can complete all your SONA credits online. If there are not enough online SONA studies to earn your credit or you do not wish to participate in online SONA studies, you may alternatively submit a research report, or a combination of SONA credits and a research report (described below). Completion of all types of SONA credits must now be done by **April 27, 2020**.

4b. Read and report on the literature: You can also gain exposure to research by reading and writing short essays on recent research articles in the field of cognitive, experimental, developmental, social and clinical psychology for a total of 8 hours of work and a minimum of two 5-page papers (double-spaced, 12 point font). If you choose this option, the research articles must be approved by me first. Completion of this requirement is due on **April 6, 2020**.

4c. Option A+B: You can combine SONA Credits and reporting on the literature for a total of 7 hours during the semester (8 hours if no-show). If you choose this option, the research articles must be approved by me first. Completion of the writing portion of this

requirement has to be completed by **April 6, 2020**, while the SONA credits can be acquired up to April 27, 2020.

Update: The time spent working on the research report should be complimentary to the time spent in SONA participation. For instance, if you have completed 4 SONA credits, you may work on one research report for 4 hours. The research report should be a minimum of one 5 pages, double-spaced, with a 12-point font. If you would like further advice on how to write the report, please contact me.

5. Possibility of excusing oneself: Life happens, and sometimes unpredictably so. For this reason, I will grant two excuses for any of the course activities, **except for exams**. The two excuses are valid only if presented at least 24 hours before any assignment is due. In principle, I will not grant the possibility for additional excuses. You must take exams when they are scheduled. In rare and extreme circumstances, I will make an exception, but in order to be considered for an exception, you must contact me at least 24 hours before an exam. Not using your two free excuses by the end of the semester will give you a bonus of 10 points per unused excuse.

Update: Any student who was absent from class or absent from scheduled SONA participation from 3/9 – 3/13 will be excused with no penalty. Please, communicate with me if this is the case.

GRADE CALCULATIONS:

All of these activities will count toward your final grade:

In-class assignments: max 200 points - 20% of the final grade

Update: The group presentation will be 90 points and it will count towards the in-class assignment part of the grade.

Homework assignments: max 100 points - 35% of the final grade

Exams: max 300 points - 45% of the final grade

First-hand experience with research: max -14 points – 2.8% of the final grade

Unused excuses: max +20 points – 4% of the final grade

The following grade equivalencies will be considered (cut-off points will be strictly enforced):

93.00% to 100% A 73.00% to 76.99% C

90.00% to 92.99%	A-	70.00% to 72.99%	C-
87.00% to 89.99%	B+	67.00% to 69.99%	D+
83.00% to 86.99%	B	63.00% to 66.99%	D
80.00% to 82.99%	B-	60.00% to 62.99%	D-
77.00% to 79.99%	C+	Below 60.00%	F

CLASS POLICIES (*italicized text is official TU policy language*)

Learning Management System (Canvas): I will communicate outside of the classroom (e.g., posting assignments & announcements) using Canvas (canvas.temple.edu). You need to have access to this site, check it regularly, and be able to receive emails through the system. Use the “Help” tab on Canvas or visit Temple’s Help Desk at The TECH CENTER (room 404, Phone 215-204-8000) for technical difficulties (i.e., do not contact me for technical problems).

Update: To those present in class, I know I am being repetitive. Please, activate the Canvas notifications. For those of you who will use Zoom for the first time, please review this video tutorials: <https://teaching.temple.edu/zoom>. Try Zoom before Monday 03/16 and ask for help if you cannot connect properly.

Disabilities Statement: *Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. <https://disabilityresources.temple.edu/register-drs> (Links to an external site.)*

PLEASE NOTE: Disabilities are NOT limited to learning difficulties and include medical illnesses (anemia, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, etc.), and mental or emotional illnesses that have been diagnosed by a medical doctor or therapist. Accommodations can include many things beyond adjusted testing times. Please consult with disabilities services regarding eligibility for accommodations if you feel you have any of these illnesses. Exceptions to course policies for students with disabilities will not be granted without notification from Disability Resources and Services.

Statement on Academic Freedom: *Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on*

Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02 (Links to an external site.).

Policy on Academic Honesty: *Temple University believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism and academic cheating are, therefore, prohibited. Essential to intellectual growth is the development of independent thought and a respect for the thoughts of others. The prohibition against plagiarism and cheating is intended to foster this independence and respect.*

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. It is the instructor's responsibility to indicate the appropriate manner of citation. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.

Students must assume that all graded assignments, homework assignments, and tests are to be completed individually unless otherwise noted in writing in this syllabus as group work. I reserve the right to refer any cases of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the University Disciplinary Committee; I also reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, homework assignment or test.

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

Punctuality: Please be on time for class. If you must be late, take a seat in the back of the class, quietly.

Schedule changes: In the event the college has an unscheduled closing (e.g., due to weather) I will notify you via Canvas and/or email of any schedule changes. In the unlikely event that I have to cancel class, please check Canvas for assignments and announcements. The schedule is subject to change at my discretion. Changes to the exam dates will be announced in class and/or on Canvas.

Update: Make sure to turn on the Canvas notifications on your device. Announcements will become more frequent.

Don't be shy: Please feel to ask questions during class: if you are confused about something, others probably are, too. Please do not assume you are the only one not getting it. So, contribute to the public good and your private gain by asking a question. Feel free to reach out to me or to the TA, if you need clarification. We are tools to help you learn. In email to the TA or to me, please include a respectful salutation (e.g., Dear Professor), use standard grammatical English, and sign your full name.

Update: We will learn how to have online conversations involving many people via Zoom. All mics will be muted and the videos will be on. You can raise your hand, ask me to go slower or faster, comment on the chat, as we have reviewed in class. I highly recommend to be interactive.

Social contract: In order for this course to have the expected results, we both have a part to play and when each of us do their part, everybody benefits.

As professor, I promise to do my very best to be clear in my explanations, to select captivating materials and assignments and to prepare the course materials to the best of my abilities. I will make decisions about the course with the goals of maximizing your learning experience. I will do my best to promote a positive learning environment, to act fairly and provide equal opportunities for success, while proposing high standards of learning. I welcome your requests for help.

As student, you promise to prepare for class, to contribute to the best of your abilities, not to cheat or act dishonestly and to treat your classmates and me with the respect (racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc. comments will not be tolerated). You will do your best to attend class and to be on time. You will not ask me to grant you special privileges that aren't available to the rest of your classmates in order that I may adhere to my promise to be fair and just to all of you. You are welcome to ask for help, if needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

Update: Under these circumstances, this section may become useful to some of you. Please, make sure to read it and alert me, should you want any advice on how to solicit these services.

Wellbeing is an important factor that influences learning and performance. If you are in need of any of the services listed below, please be aware that they exist for Temple Students and I encourage you to explore them.

Medical Appointments: Please be aware that you have FREE medical care available for you as a full- or part-time student at Temple University. The student health center is

located at 1810 Liacouras Walk, 4th floor. They have early morning, evening, and Saturday appointments. (215) 204-7500. <https://www.temple.edu/studenthealth/> (Links to an external site.)

Mental Health Care: You are entitled to FREE private and confidential mental health counseling as a full- or part-time student at Temple University. There are several walk-in hours available in mornings, evenings, and on Saturdays. The student counseling center is located at 1700 North Broad St., 2nd floor. (215) 204-7276. There is someone available for you to talk to at this number 24 hours a day. You can also call psychiatric services (215) 707-2577. <https://counseling.temple.edu/walk-clinic> (Links to an external site.)

CARE Team: In the event that life circumstances become challenging or you have a medical, mental, or life crisis it is highly recommended that you contact the Temple CARE Team. This is a group of administrators and students that work together to help Temple students navigate life events that interfere with attendance, course work, living situations, and family issues among many other events. The CARE Team can communicate on your behalf with your professors to come to a suitable arrangement regarding any extenuating circumstances. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the CARE Team in the Dean of Students Office for support. The CARE Team web address is careteam.temple.edu or you can email CARETeam@temple.edu. Furthermore, please notify your professors if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any other resources that we may possess.

Cherry Pantry: Any student who has challenges affording healthy food or is facing financial hardship and finding it difficult to feed themselves may visit the Cherry Pantry to select donated goods from the Temple Community. <https://studentaffairs.temple.edu/cherry-pantry> The Pantry is located in the Howard Gittis Student Center, RM 224A. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the CARE Team in the Dean of Students Office for support.

CALENDAR:

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	M 01/13	Welcome!	Syllabus
	W 01/15	Introduction to Canvas & SONA - How to read scientific material	Check for in class assignments

	F 01/17	How to read scientific material	Check for in class assignments Complete Introduction Homework by 11:59pm on Sunday
2	M 01/20	MLK Jr day - No class	
	W 01/22	Chapter 1: Psychology is a way of thinking	Check for in class assignments
	F 01/24		Complete Chapter 1 Homework by Sunday 01/26 11:59pm
3	M 01/27	Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Why research is best and how to find it	Check for in class assignments
	W 01/29		Complete Chapter 2 Homework by Sunday 02/02 11:59pm
	F 01/31		
4	M 02/03	Chapter 3: Three claims, four validities: Interrogation tools for consumers of research	Check for in class assignments
	W 02/05		Complete Chapter 3 Homework by Sunday 02/09 11:59pm
	F 02/07		
5	M 02/10	Review	
	W 02/12	EXAM #1: Chapters 1-3	
	F 02/14	Article reading	Read article submit questions by 02/13 11:59pm
6	M 02/17	Chapter 4: Ethical guidelines for psychology research	Check for in class assignments
	W 02/19		Complete Chapter 4 Homework by Sunday 02/23 11:59pm
	F 02/21		
7	M 02/24	Chapter 5: Identifying good measurement	Check for in class assignments
	W 02/26		Complete Chapter 5 Homework by Sunday 03/01 11:59pm
	F 02/28		
8	M 03/02	Spring break	
	W 03/04		
	F 03/06		

9	M 03/09	Chapter 6: Surveys and observations: Describing what people do.	Check for in class assignments
	W 03/11		Complete Chapter 6 Homework by Sunday 03/15 11:59pm
	F 03/13		
10	M 03/16	Chapter 7: Sampling: Estimating the frequency of behaviors and beliefs	Read Chapter 7 by Wednesday 03/18
	W 03/18		Online assignment Wednesday 03/18
	F 03/20	Review	Complete Chapter 7 Homework by Sunday 03/22 11:59pm
11	M 03/23	Review (Recitation 03/24)	
	W 03/25	EXAM #2: Chapters 4-7	
	F 03/27	Instructions about group work (which counts as In-class assignment)	
12	M 03/30	Chapter 8: Bivariate correlational research	Read Chapter 8 by Wednesday 04/01
	W 04/01		Online assignment Wednesday 04/01
	F 04/03		Complete Chapter 8 Homework by Sunday 04/05 11:59pm
13	M 04/06	Chapter 10: Introduction to simple experiments	Read Chapter 8 by Wednesday 04/08
	W 04/08		Online assignment Wednesday 04/08
	F 04/10		Complete Chapter 10 Homework by Sunday 04/12 11:59pm
14	M 04/13	Chapter 14: Replication, Generalization & the Real World	Read Chapter 8 by Wednesday 04/13
	W 04/15		Online assignment Wednesday 04/13
	F 04/17	Review	Complete Chapter 15 Homework by Sunday 04/17 11:59pm
15	M 04/20	Review (Recitation 04/21)	
	W 04/22	EXAM #3: Chapters 8,10,14	

	F 04/24	Exam correction	Submit video-presentations online by Friday 04/24 11.59pm
16	M 04/27	Discussion about the presentations	
	F 05/01 10:30 to 12:30	FINAL EXAM : Chapters 1-8, 10, 14	