



Psychology 585	Advanced Topics in Psychopathology	Fall 2015
Instructor:	Candace Konnert	Lecture Location: AD247B
Phone:	403-220-4976	Lecture Days/Time: TR 12:30 – 13:45
Email:	konnert@ucalgary.ca	
Office:	Admin 235C	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description and Goals

This course will focus on the assessment, phenomenology, etiology, and/or treatment of psychological disorders. In contrast to Abnormal Psychology (Psyc 385), which provided students with an overview of different disorders, this course will review the prevalent issues both generally in the field of psychopathology and for different disorders. In addition, this course will review the conceptual and methodological issues that arise when investigating psychopathology, including the strengths and weaknesses of classificatory systems such as the DSM. Throughout the course there will be an emphasis on diversity (e.g., cultural, SES) and the availability and implementation of evidence-based assessments and treatments for psychological disorders.

Prerequisites

PSYC 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

PSYC 385 – Abnormal Psychology

Competencies Assessed in this Course

- 1. Demonstrate Knowledge of Psychological Sciences.** Students will acquire basic knowledge of select diagnoses. Special emphasis will be on diversity issues in psychopathology. Students will have some exposure, through videos, case studies, etc., to people with psychological disorders.
- 2. Think Critically and Solve Problems.** Students will acquire a critical and evidence-based method of thinking about the diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and prevention of mental health problems. They will learn how to conceptualize a mental health problem from a biopsychosocial perspective, and take a hypothesis-testing approach to assessing and treating mental health problems.
- 3. Communicate Effectively in Writing and in Person.** Students will learn how to write accurately, clearly and concisely. They will also develop their presentation skills and learn how to lead a class discussion. Note that communication skills will focus on communicating to both academic and non-academic audiences within a knowledge translation framework.

4. **Demonstrate Information Literacy.** Students will know where the most likely sources are for obtaining additional evidence-based knowledge in the area of psychopathology. Students will have an understanding of the primary methodologies used in the field, including their strengths and weaknesses.
5. **Operate Ethically and with Integrity.** Students will be exposed to different ethical dilemmas that arise in the field. These will be discussed in the context of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists and relevant standards and practice guidelines.
6. **Apply Psychological Knowledge and Skills.** Students will be exposed to real-world examples of mental health problems and will be given the opportunity to apply the skills learned in this course. They will also be engaged in discussions about the problems and obstacles to providing adequate care to those with mental health problems. What can we do at a personal, social, organizational, and societal level to address disparities in mental health care?

Required Text

Beidel, D. C., Freueh, B. C., & Hersen, M. (2014). *Adult Psychopathology and Diagnosis*. New York: John Wiley. Text is available in the University Bookstore.

Evaluation:

Evaluation Component	Worth	Due Date
Participation	15%	Throughout
Discussion questions	10%	As per the course outline
Presentation/discussion lead on topical issue/article	20%	Dates to be assigned
Midterm	25%	October 13
Final	30%	To be scheduled by the Registrar

Evaluation Expectations:

(1) Participation (15%)

It is expected that all students will prepare for and participate in class discussion. Effective participation involves both quality and quantity of responses. Quantity does not make up for lack of quality. You will be evaluated on the quality of your contributions to class as demonstrated, in part, by knowledge of the readings for that week and your thoughtful analysis of the readings. You are required to come to class having completed and thought about the readings for that week.

In addition, the issues-based nature of the course is intended to elicit your thoughts and ideas about interesting and sometimes controversial topics in the field of psychopathology. Do not hesitate to share your views with others. We will strive to create an open and inclusive environment where everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. You will receive feedback on your participation mid-way through the semester. If you will not be in class, please email me prior to class.

(2) Discussion questions (10%)

Students will be required to submit one question each week on the topic for that week. These questions can be derived from the readings **but may also go beyond the readings** and should reflect interesting issues that are raised, including controversies, debates, and dilemmas associated with the topic for that week. For example, questions might deal with conceptual issues in the diagnosis, DSM-5 criteria, diversity issues, research and/or methodological issues, or something else. You are encouraged to prepare questions that are interesting and provocative. Although all questions will not be covered in

each class, be prepared to discuss your questions and views. Questions must be typed and e-mailed to me (konnert@ucalgary.ca) by noon on the due date (see class schedule for due dates) and must pertain directly to the reading for that week (i.e., not readings from previous weeks). Questions that do not meet this criterion or are late will receive a 0. They will be graded as follows: very good (3), satisfactory (2), or needs improvement (1). Questions should not exceed one-half page, double-spaced. If you include additional articles please cite the references in APA style.

(3) Presentation and Discussion Lead (20%)

Students will be responsible for presenting and leading class discussion on a reading that is relevant to the topic for that week. You will be provided with a choice of topics/readings. However, if there is a topic you would like to cover that is not on the list, please meet with me. The presentation and discussion should take about 30 minutes. Presentations will be assigned during the first week of class. Students will be given guidance on how to lead a discussion (dos and don'ts)! Note that engaging other students and guiding the discussion are important for success. Please e-mail your PowerPoint slides to me no later than 3 pm on the day before your presentation and I will post them on D2L. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a 10% deduction on your grade for this assignment.

Student presentations will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- 1) Accuracy, emphasis of important points.
- 2) Organization and clarity of the presentation, use of PowerPoint slides.
- 3) Your ability to think critically about the article. Don't be afraid to take and defend a position! You may also address the significance of the article and/or implications (e.g., to the study of psychopathology, to clients and their family members, to society at large).
- 4) Your ability to lead a discussion and engage other students. (Note to all students: Please assist your fellow students by actively participating in the discussion.)

(4) Midterm (25%) and Final Exams (30%)

The exams will be essay format. One week before the exam, I will provide you with a list of essay questions in a study guide. The material on the exams will be selected from the study guide. The final exam is not cumulative. The exams will include content from readings, lectures, and student presentations. Essays will be evaluated on both the content and, to a lesser extent, the quality and organization of the writing. Please note that the use of iPods, iPads, computers, books, or notes will not be permitted during exams.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	83-85%	C+	72-75%	D+	59-62%
A	90-95%	B	79-82%	C	67-71%	D	55-58%
A-	85-89%	B-	76-78%	C-	63-66%	F	0-54%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic (Note that all topics may not be covered in class. However, students <u>are</u> responsible for completing the assigned readings.)	Chapter from: Beidel, Frueh, & Hersen (2014) Discussion question (DQ) due
Sept 8, 10	Issues in Psychopathology: Conceptual and Methodological Issues	Chapter 1
Sept 15, 17	Issues in Psychopathology (continued)/Sleep-Wake Disorders	Chapters 2, 14 DQ due Sept 14
Sept 18	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.	
Sept 21	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.	
Sept 22, 24	Assessment/Diversity	Chapter 3, 4 DQ due Sept 21
Sept 25	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
Sept 29, Oct 1	Schizophrenia Spectrum/Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 5 DQ due Sept 28
Oct 6, 8	Mood Disorders	Chapters 6 and 7 DQ due Oct 5
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
Oct 13	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-7, 14)	
Oct 15, 20, 22	Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders/Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders	Chapters 8, 9 and 10 DQ due Oct 19
Oct 27, 29	Dissociative Disorders/Somatic Symptom Disorders	Chapters 11 and 12 DQ due Oct 26
Nov 3, 5, 10	Feeding and Eating Disorders/Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 13 and 19 DQ due Nov 2
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures	
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
Nov 17, 19	Sexual Dysfunction/Paraphilic Disorders/Gender Dysphoria	Chapter 15 and 16 DQ due Nov 16
Nov 24, 26	Substance Use Disorders	Chapters 17 and 18 DQ due Nov 23
Dec 1, 3, 8	Personality Disorders	Chapter 20 DQ due Nov 30
Dec 8	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.	

Dec 11-22	Final Exam (Chapters 8-13, 15-20)	Scheduled by the Registrar
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Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf .

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor

within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8, 2015**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.:

Phone: 403-220-3913

socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.