



Department of Psychology
Psychology 385 – Abnormal Psychology
Spring 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Amanda Epp	Lecture Location:	PF126
Phone:	403-220-3697	Lecture Days/Time:	Sat. 1pm – 5:30pm
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Office:	A059		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course provides an introduction to the field of **adult** psychopathology. It reviews etiology (what causes disorders), symptoms (what the disorders look like), diagnosis (how we classify disorders), assessment (how we measure disorders), and treatment (how we intervene), of selected disorders. In addition, social, ethical, legal and other contemporary issues related to mental disorders will be addressed. Case studies will frequently be used to capture the individual presentation of each disorder. The format of the class will be predominantly lectures, with class discussion, group activities, and audio-visual aids.

Prerequisites

PSYC 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text

Barlow, D. H., Durand, M. V., & Stewart, S. H. (2009). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (2nd Canadian ed.). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

Component	Weighting Toward Final Grade	Due Date
Midterm Exam	40%	May 29, 2010
Assignment	15%	June 12, 2010
Final Exam	45%	Scheduled by registrar

Exams

Exams will be two hours in length and consist of multiple-choice questions. For both exams, you will be responsible for the **lecture material (including videos, group activities, and guest lectures, etc.) and the material covered in the textbook**. Both exams will be **non-cumulative** and cover the material for that portion of the course. Material covered on the day of the midterm exam will be tested on the final exam, not on the midterm exam.

Assignment: “Abnormal Psychology in the Movies”

This assignment will involve watching a popular film that depicts some form of psychopathology. A list of possible movies will be given to you. In your paper, you will provide a comprehensive diagnosis of the character with the disorder, and discuss his/her symptoms, prognosis, and treatment. You will reflect on the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about people with the particular disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general. You will discuss the film's characterization in light of the current understanding of this disorder (does the movie reflect in an accurate way the abnormal behaviour?). To discuss an issue of interest to you in more length, you will select one scholarly article (from a peer-reviewed journal) of relevance to an aspect of the above content (e.g., assessment, treatment, stigma) in light of the specific disorder, and incorporate it into your discussion. This paper should consist of 1000-1300 words (approximately four double-spaced pages), and follow APA 6th Ed. formatting. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

Please note:

- Late assignments will NOT be accepted without an official University medical excuse.
- Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
- Assignments must be turned in to the instructor at the BEGINNING of the class on the day they are due.
- A failing grade may be assigned to any student who fails to complete one or more of the exams.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

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 Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Due Date	Readings
S May 1	Introduction to the Course; Abnormal Behaviour in Historical Context; An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Chapters 1 & 2
F May 7	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration. No fee refunds after today.</i>	
S May 8	Assessment and Diagnosis; Research Methods	Chapters 3 & 4
S May 15	Mood Disorders; Eating Disorders	Chapters 7 & 8
S May 22	<i>Last day to pay fees (F May 21); May Long Weekend – NO CLASS!</i>	
S May 29	Substance-Related Disorders <i>Midterm Exam</i>	Chapter 11

S Jun 5	Anxiety Disorders; Dissociative Disorders	Chapters 5 & 6
S Jun 12	Gender Identity Disorder; Personality Disorders Assignment DUE at the beginning of class.	Chapters 10 & 12
S Jun 19	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders; Legal and Ethical Issues Spring Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	Chapters 13 & 16
R Jun 24	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.	
S Jun 26	Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	

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. 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. 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 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.

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 (2) 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 **June 24th, 2010**.

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 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **May 7th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **May 7th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 19th, 2010**.