



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 385 (L60) – Abnormal Psychology**  
**Summer 2011 – Course Outline**

---

<b>Instructor:</b>	Philip Masson	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Administration 167
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-9438	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Tues and Thurs 11:00-13:45
<b>Email:</b>	pcmasson@ucalgary.ca	<b>Office Hours:</b>	After class, or email to schedule.
<b>Office:</b>	Education Block 064		

---

### **Course Description and Goals**

The purpose of this course is to examine a wide array of issues within the study of adult psychopathology. We will discuss how to conceptualize psychopathology, how to assess for psychopathology, and how to study psychopathology. Several specific disorders will be examined in detail; etiology (what causes the disorder), symptoms, and treatments will be discussed. Disorders that will be examined in this course include mood disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders, substance disorders, personality disorders, sexual and gender identity disorders, dementias, and sleep disorders. We will also discuss general treatment and prevention strategies for psychopathology, as well as related legal issues. In addition to the textbook, case studies and video clips will be used.

### **Prerequisites**

Psychology 205—Principles of Psychology

### **Required Text**

Dozois, D. J. A., & Firestone, P. (2010). *Abnormal psychology: Perspectives* (4th ed.). Toronto: Pearson Canada. The textbook is available at the U of C bookstore.

### **Evaluation**

Component	Weighting Toward Final Exam	Exam Date/Due Date
Midterm Exam	40%	July 21, 2011
Assignment	15%	August 2, 2011
Final Exam	45%	Scheduled by registrar

*Exams.* There will be two closed-book exams in this class: a midterm and final exam. Exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. Textbook chapters and lecture material prior to the exam date are eligible to appear on the exam. The final exam will be cumulative, although it will draw more heavily on material covered after the midterm. If an exam is missed, it can only be made up with a Physician/Counselor Statement; otherwise, a grade of 0 will be assigned for that exam.

*Assignment: Rewriting the DSM.* The DSM, the major diagnostic system used for mental illnesses in North America, is currently under development, and changes are being made to the criteria for some of the disorders. You will be asked to examine one of the changes and argue either for or against the change, citing relevant research (at least three journal articles). The paper should be approximately 750 words and follow APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition formatting. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation. Additional details, including some of the proposed changes to the DSM, will be provided in class, as well as on Blackboard. For a complete list of the proposed changes, please visit this website: [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org).

**Please note:**

- Late assignments will **not** be accepted without an official University medical excuse.
- Assignments must be turned in to the instructor at the **beginning** of the class on the day they are due.
- Emailed assignments will **not** be accepted.

**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-).

**Important dates**

Date	
M July 4	Lecture begins.
F July 8	Last day for registration/change of registration.
W Aug 17	Lecture ends.

**Schedule**

Date	Topic	Readings
T July 5	Lecture begins. Conceptualizing Mental Illness	Chap. 1 pp 1-7; Chap. 2
R July 7	Assessment and Diagnosis	Chap. 3, 4
F July 8	Last day for registration/change of registration and last day to drop a course with tuition refund.	
T July 12	Mood Disorders	Chap. 8
R July 14	Anxiety Disorders	Chap. 5
T July 19	Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders; Schizophrenia	Chap. 6, 9
R July 21	Mid-Term Exam	
T July 26	Reading Day	
R July 28	Eating Disorders	Chap. 10
T Aug 2	Substance Disorders; Assignment due at the beginning of class.	Chap. 11
R Aug 4	Personality Disorders; Mental Disorders and Aging	Chap. 12, 16

T Aug 9	Sexual and General Identity Disorders	Chap. 13
R Aug 11	Treatment	Chap. 17
T Aug 16	Prevention; Mental Disorders and the Law	Chap. 18, 19
W Aug 17	Last day to withdraw. Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.	
Aug 19-20	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, or 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**

Students who miss a term test due to a valid and documented official University reason (illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction) have 48 hours to contact AND schedule a makeup test with the instructor. The onus is on the student to have a makeup test approved and scheduled within 48 hours, or the makeup test option is forfeited. The same process applies to missed makeup tests. At the instructor's discretion, the makeup test may differ significantly in form and/or content from the missed test. However, the makeup test cannot differ in weight (% of final grade) from the missed test. Except in extenuating circumstances (a documented official University medical excuse), a makeup test must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test.

Absence from a final exam, and deferral of a final exam, are handled by Enrolment Services (see [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)). Students absent from a final exam must notify the instructor within 48 hours and must then apply for an official deferred final exam no later than the deadline indicated in the Examinations Schedule.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), 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 not to 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 (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 **August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

### **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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombuds 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](mailto: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 is available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333.

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund**—and the last day for registration/change of registration—is **July 8, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 17, 2011**.