



## **Introduction to Abnormal Psychology Psychology 385 - Winter 2007 - L02**

**Lectures:** Thursday 5:00 PM to 7:45 PM (165 minute lectures)

**Instructor:** Dr. Guy Pelletier

**Office:** Admin 257

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Lecture Room:** TBA

**Phone:** 355-3212

**E-mail:** gpelleti@ucalgary.ca

### **Course Textbook:**

Firestone P., Dozois D.J.A.. (2007). Abnormal Psychology - Perspectives. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall

### **Course description and objectives:**

A major objective of this course is to survey the field of adult psychopathology. The course will start with an introductory group of lectures during which we will review of the concept of abnormal behavior, followed by the study of possible causes (etiology) of abnormal behavior, its classification, and its assessment. The main core of lectures will consist in reviews of various diagnostic categories of adult psychopathology, and will include discussions of the history of various disorders, their characteristic symptoms, how they are assessed (measured), their prognosis (the possible outcome of the disorders), the treatments used, and the social implications of the disorders (how they might affect individuals, families, communities, and society at large). One lecture will focus on general treatment issues while the last lecture will focus on prevention and mental health promotion. If possible the last lecture will include a review and question period.

Students should keep in mind that this is a survey course indented to provide basic, wide-ranging knowledge of abnormal psychology. This is an ambitious endeavor which will require the learning and understanding of a considerable amount of information. The course will follow the textbook relatively closely, although not exclusively. Students interested in more detailed discussions of various disorders and other subjects will be

encouraged to consider higher-level, more advanced courses.

### **Instructional Approach:**

Students are responsible for reading the textbook(s) and attending the lectures. There will be 3 exams in this course, two 75 minute (1.25 hour) midterm exams (**on February 08 and March 15, 2007**) and a 2 hour final exam to be scheduled by the registrar during the final exam period. The exams will cover material presented in the text and lectures.

Lecture material will be drawn from the textbook and from various other sources, providing the students with a broad and current presentation of abnormal psychology. The lectures are intended to highlight ideas and principles presented in the textbook, and to elaborate upon that information. **Thus, the course will go beyond the textbook on many selected topics.** It is unlikely that any of the lectures will fully cover any and all topics that are presented in the textbook. Questions and discussion are strongly encouraged, especially if students wish to have some subjects covered more thoroughly. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the assigned readings and are encouraged to read the assigned material prior to the corresponding lecture. This will facilitate a better comprehension of the subjects that will be presented.

Lecture slides will be made available on **Blackboard** so as to facilitate note taking. The slides outline **ONLY** the main points of the lectures and are not meant to replace class attendance. Class attendance is essential to obtain full coverage of the subjects.

### **Course Evaluation:**

**The format for all exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions**

Mid-term #1: **February 08 2007** - 75 minutes - 30% of final grade  
Chapters **1,2,3,4,5,8** and corresponding lectures

Mid-term #2: **March 15 2007** - 75 minutes - 30% of final grade  
Chapters **6,7,10,11,12**

Final exam: To be scheduled by the Registrar - 2.0 hours - 40% of final grade  
Cumulative, covering **all readings and lecture material**, with a greater emphasis on chapters **9,13,16,17,18** and corresponding lectures

### **Course Grading Scheme:**

|            |           |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 examination is between two letter grades.

In this course, marks will **not** be rounded off by the instructor given that students have the possibility of adding maximum of 2 bonus points by participating in psychological experiments or studies.

### Tentative Class Schedule

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Readings</b> |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Jan 11          | Introduction, definition of abnormality, etiology of mental disorders                                   | Ch. 1, 2        |
| Jan 18          | Classification, assessment of mental disorders, reserach methods  | Ch. 3,4         |
| Jan 25          | Mood disorders and suicide  | Ch. 8           |
| Feb 01          | Anxiety disorders   | Ch. 5           |
| <b>Feb 08</b>   | <b>Mid-Term Exam #1</b><br>Post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders | Ch. 6           |
| Feb 15          | Psychophysiological disorders and stress  | Ch. 7           |
| <b>Feb 22</b>   | <b>Reading week- No class</b>   |                 |
| Mar 01          | Eating disorders, substance-related disorders   | Ch.10, 11       |
| Mar 08          | Personality disorders   | Ch. 12          |
| <b>Mar 15</b>   | <b>Mid-term Exam #2</b><br>Sexual and gender identity disorders   | Ch 13           |
| Mar 22          | Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders   | Ch 9            |
| Mar 29          | Adjustment disorders and life-cycle transitions, mental disorders and aging                             | Ch 16           |
| Apr 05          | Therapies   | Ch.17           |
| Apr 12          | Prevention and mental health promotion in the community, review   | Ch. 18          |
| <b>Apr16-26</b> | <b>Final Exam (to be Sceduled by the Registrar)</b>   |                 |

## **University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives**

As much as possible, this course will encourage critical and creative thinking, effective oral communication, the analysis of problems, the growth of insight and intuition in understanding a variety of mental health problems, and the acquisition of basic knowledge which can lead to the development of interpretive and assessment skills. These core competencies will be addressed via class discussion that will prompt the students to think critically about the course material, and via test questions in which students will be required to think creatively about clinical cases.

The course will also address the integration of current research as a curriculum redesign feature. This will be accomplished with the use of a most recently published Canadian textbook that discusses national and international research in abnormal psychology, Canadian mental health statistics, and specific features of the Canadian mental health system. A major objective of this course is not only to present up to date information about the current state of abnormal psychology in general, but also information directly relevant to mental health issues in Canada.

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation**

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 an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in research is April 12, 2007.

### **Student Organizations**

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

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is January 19, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 13, 2007.