

PSYC 385
Abnormal Psychology
Winter 2017
Instructor: Maisha M. Syeda

Lecture Location: ST 141

E-mail: mmsyeda@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Days/Time: Thursdays, 8-9:15 AM

Office: EDT 522

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the field of human psychopathology, including a historical perspective, current classification and diagnostic systems as well as theory, research and treatment methods. Some of the topics covered will include anxiety and mood disorders, somatoform, schizophrenia and psychotic disorders as well as personality disorders. The format of the class will be primarily lectures and discussion, although speakers and video presentations may be utilized. A student successfully completing this course will gain an understanding of each disorder, as well as current psychological theories, research and treatment related to the problem area. It is hoped that the lectures will provide for a fuller understanding of mental illnesses and psychopathology above and beyond that offered by the course text. Therefore, while the course text offers an excellent basis of understanding, students are strongly encouraged to attend class and participate in discussion as this will likely make the material easier to understand, more interesting, and more relevant. Your performance on exams (and resultant grades) may also be positively impacted.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Convey key concepts and theoretical approaches in several areas of abnormal psychology	1	I
Describe biological, psychological, and social foundations of typical and atypical behaviour and mental processes	1	I
Assess and critically evaluate information, ideas, and assumptions related to current understandings of abnormal psychology from a variety of perspectives	2	I
Identify ethical issues and ramifications of theories and social policy with respect to how abnormal behavior is defined and treated	6	I
Operate as an informed consumer of research pertaining to abnormal psychology and current mechanisms of treatment delivery	5	I
Identify historical trends, recent advances, and the limits of psychological knowledge with respect to the study of abnormal psychology	1	I

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate

information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 – Principles of Psychology I

Psyc 201 – Principles of Psychology II

Required Text

Dozois, D. (2014). *Abnormal psychology: Perspectives (DSM-5 update edition)*. Don Mills, ON: Pearson Canada.

The text has been ordered through the University of Calgary bookstore. Please note that with recent changes to the diagnosis of mental disorders, you are strongly encouraged to get the latest edition of the text, the “DSM-5 Updated edition”. Older editions while still available from some sources will not provide the integration of material that the new edition will provide. The new version is strongly suggested to make your life a little easier.

Evaluation

The format for exams in this course will be multiple-choice. No Ipods, Ipads, computers, books, notes or other aids or equipment will be allowed.

Midterm #1: Thursday, February 9th, 2017. This midterm will cover material to date and will constitute 30% of the final grade. The midterm will be 75 minutes in length and will cover textbook readings, lecture material and other audio-video and readings as assigned or covered in class.

Midterm #2: Thursday, March 16th, 2017. This midterm will be non-cumulative and cover material to date since midterm #1. This midterm will also account for 30% of the final grade. The midterm will be 75 minutes in length and will cover textbook readings, lecture material and other audio-video and readings as assigned or covered in class.

The Final Exam: To be scheduled by the Registrar, will be approximately 2.0 hours in length and will be cumulative with an emphasis on material following midterm #2. The final will account for 40% of final grade.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

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%

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/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
T Jan 10	Lecture begins
R Jan 12	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 1 and 2
T Jan 17	Assessment, Classification of Disorders, Diagnosis and Research Methods, Chapters 3 and 4
R Jan 19	
T Jan 24	Anxiety Disorders, Chapter 5
R Jan 26	
T Jan 31	Mood Disorders and Suicide, Chapter 8
R Feb 2	
T Feb 7	Midterm #1-30%-Chapters 1-5 and 8, plus supplemental readings as assigned for each lecture
R Feb 9	Schizophrenia, Chapter 9
Feb 19-26	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).

	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Feb 28	Schizophrenia, Chapter 9
R Mar 2 T Mar 7	Substance-Related Disorder and Eating Disorder, Chapter 10 and 11
R Mar 9 T Mar 14	Dissociative/Somatoform Disorders; Psychophysiological Disorders and Stress, Chapter 6 and 7
R Mar 16	Midterm #2-30%- Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11, plus supplemental readings as assigned for each lecture
R Mar 23 T Mar 28	Developmental Disorders and Disorders of Childhood/Adolescence, Chapters 14 and 15
R Mar 30 T Apr 4	Treatments, Therapies, and Preventions-Part 1, Chapters 17 and 18
R Apr 6 T Apr 11	Treatments, Therapies, and Preventions-Part 2, Chapters 17 and 18, and wrap-up
Apr 15-26	Winter Term Final Examinations.

Important Winter Term Dates:

F Jan 20	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
M Jan 23	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.

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 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 **April 12, 2017**.

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 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

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

Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

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 **January 20, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 23, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 12, 2017**.