

PSYC 385
Abnormal Psychology
Winter 2023

Instructor:	Sara Becker	Lecture Location:	ST 143
Phone:	403-210-9361	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF, 14:00-14:50
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Office Hours:	After class or by request		

Course Description

This course explores abnormal behavior and experiences, their causes and treatment throughout the lifespan (though adult psychopathology will be emphasized). The course will cover assessments, diagnosis, characteristics, and biological and environmental factors affecting major psychological disorders. Psychosocial and pharmacological therapies will also be discussed. Lectures will cover the following modules:

Module 1	Neurodevelopmental disorders
Module 2	Mood disorders
Module 3	Anxiety and stress disorders
Module 4	Psychotic, dissociative and somatic disorders
Module 5	Disorders of eating, addiction and sexuality
Module 6	Personality disorders
Module 7	Neurocognitive disorders

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 <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify and describe the biological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors contributing to the development, maintenance and understanding of adult psychopathology.	Quizzes and exams	1	I
Identify and describe different brain and mental illnesses including their classification, causes, symptoms, and diagnostic criteria.	Quizzes, exams, written assignment	1,2,4,7	C
Consider and discuss ethical and social issues (e.g., stigma, stereotypes, etc.) related to mental health and illness.	Quizzes and exams	1,6	I
Demonstrate knowledge of methods related to the prevention and treatment of mental health problems.	Quizzes and exams	1,2,4,7	I
Identify similarities and differences between disorders and/or disorder subtypes within/between different diagnostic categories.	Quizzes and exams, written assignment	1,2	C
Describe how the conceptualization and classification of mental disorders has evolved and continues to evolve over time.	Quizzes and exams	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 in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

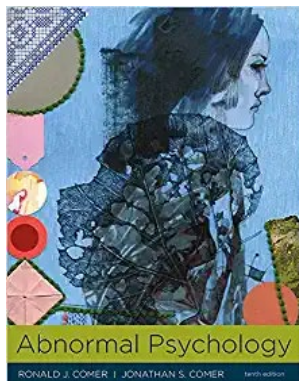
Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus. Additionally, lectures will be recorded via Zoom during each scheduled class (MWF, 14:00-14:50 pm) and posted to D2L after class, with the exception of two lectures (Feb 1 and Feb 3) which will either be pre-recorded and posted to D2L or given by a guest lecturer (TBD).

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 (Principles of Psychology I) and Psyc 201 (Principles of Psychology II).



Required Text

Comer, R.J. & Comer, J.S. (2019). Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology (9th Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Available at the U of C bookstore as a loose-leaf copy.

The Achieve Platform ([required](#)) is available to purchase from the U of C bookstore and can be accessed (for free) through the Taylor Family Digital Library.

[All about the Achieve Platform and how to access it for PSYC 385](#)

Assessment Methods

Module Quizzes and Learning curves (5% each):

A quiz will be given at the end of each of the seven modules to assess knowledge of the content of that module only. These will be given through the Achieve platform, either as a chapter quiz or as two learning curves. Quizzes will cover the assigned book chapter, be multiple choice, and can be taken up to three times (highest score will be recorded). Each quiz will be worth 5%. Learning curves are a game-like quiz where the goal is to get 300 points. Hints as well as excerpts from the book chapter can be viewed during the assignment (with less points being awarded and therefore taking longer to finish). As the learning curves are graded simply as completed/not completed, each will be worth 2.5% of your grade and therefore two will be given per 'quiz' assignment.

On quiz days, a lecture will be given for the first 20 minutes of class, then the quiz/learning curves will be released at 12:20 and students will have an opportunity to complete it in the remaining class time. If you wish, you may also begin at a later time but it must be completed within the allotted 24-hour time frame – i.e., must be finished and submitted before the 12:20 pm deadline on the due date (no late submissions will be accepted without instructor approval). **Please make sure to check that you have access to the Achieve platform before starting quizzes or learning curves.**

Midterms (15% each): There will be two non-cumulative midterms, each covering content from lectures up until the day of the midterms. There will be no lecture on midterm days. The midterms will be released at class time on D2L (i.e., noon on Wednesday February 08, and noon on Wednesday March

22). Students will have 3 hours to complete each midterm exam, within the allotted 24-hour time frame. This means students may begin the exams at any time during the 24-hour window, but will only have 3 hours to complete them. The exams must be finished and submitted before the noon deadline on the due date (no late submissions will be accepted). Midterm exams will be primarily multiple-choice, with a small number of very short answer questions (limited to a few words).

Movie assignment (10%): Students will select a movie from the list below and write a brief review (2 double-spaced pages) from a psychopathological perspective. Students will: 1) briefly summarize the plot, name the character(s) with mental illness, and identify the suspected disorder(s); 2) comment on how accurately the disorder(s) is/are depicted, highlighting correct and incorrect aspects of the portrayal; 3) identify potential biological, social, and/or psychological factors present in the film that may have contributed to the development and/or maintenance of the disorder(s), or speculate on these if they are absent from the movie. Students may make other observations they feel are relevant. The assignment will be further discussed in class in early March. Without instructor approval, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends.

Students may choose from the list of movies listed below. These were chosen primarily because they are easily accessible to students through Netflix or library resources, however I recognize that they lack cultural diversity and tend to present a cookie-cutter type view of mental illness. Please contact me if you know of other movies that represent mental illness in broader cultural groups, or if you would like to write your assignment on a movie not listed here.

- Silver Linings Playbook (2012), available on [Netflix](#)
- The Aviator (2004), available through the [University of Calgary Library](#)
- A Beautiful Mind (2001), available at the [Calgary Public Library](#)
- Smashed (2012), available through the [University of Calgary Library](#)
- Catch Me If You Can (2002), available through the [University of Calgary Library](#)
- Joker (2019), available at the [Calgary Public Library](#)

Final exam (25%): The final exam will be a mix of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions, and cover content from all lectures from the semester (i.e., will be cumulative). This will be a 2-hour in-person exam scheduled by the registrar (time and date TBD, location will be ST 143).

“WHAT WILL BE ON THE EXAM?” Lectures may include content that is not found in the textbook, and similarly the textbook may include sections that are not covered in lectures. Quizzes and learning curves pertain predominantly to the textbook. Midterms and the final will cover material from both the lecture and the textbook. For this reason, it is important that students attend all lectures and follow-up with the TA or instructor if a concept is not well-understood.

“ARE EXAMS OPEN-BOOK?” Quizzes and learning curves on the Achieve platform are open book. The midterms posted on D2L are also open book – ***however, the final will be closed book due to the in-person nature of the exam.*** For this course, ‘open book’ means that the use of class notes is permitted, and use of the textbook is permitted. The use of other online resources is prohibited. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam, either in person or electronically, during exams.

“WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS DURING AN EXAM?” The instructor and TA will be available to answer quiz- and exam-related questions via email during business hours only (weekdays, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm). Questions emailed outside those hours will not be answered until the following business day. Thus, for quizzes or exams scheduled on a Friday, students are strongly encouraged to begin sufficiently early to

allow time to reach the instructor or TA with any potential questions before the weekend.

“HOW CAN I ACCESS THE EXAMS?” Quizzes will be released on the Achieve platform – as either a ‘practice quiz’ or ‘learning curve’. Midterms will be released on D2L after class on the dates indicated below. All must be completed and submitted prior to the due date and time listed below.

Item	Weight	Released	Due	Format	Content
Quiz 1	5%	Jan 20, 12:20 pm	Jan 21, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 1 (Ch. 14)
Quiz 2	5%	Feb 01 12:20 pm	Feb 02, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 2 (Ch. 6)
Midterm 1	15%	Feb 08, 12:00 pm (noon)	Feb 09, 12:00 pm (noon)	Multiple choice + short answer	All lectures to Feb 08
Quiz 3 (LC)	5%	Feb 13, 12:20 pm	Feb 14, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 3 (Ch. 4 &5)
Quiz 4 (LC)	5%	Mar 03, 12:20 pm	Mar 04, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 4 (Ch. 8 & 12)
Quiz 5 (LC)	5%	Mar 15, 12:20 pm	Mar 16, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 5 (Ch. 9 & 11)
Midterm 2	15%	Mar 22, 12:00 pm (noon)	Mar 23, 12:00 pm (noon)	Multiple choice + short answer	All lectures Feb 08 - Mar 22
Quiz 6	5%	Mar 29, 12:20 pm	Mar 30, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 6 (Ch. 13)
Movie assignment	10%	N/A	Apr 03, 11:59 pm	Essay	N/A
Quiz 7	5%	Apr 12, 12:20 pm	Apr 13, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 7 (Ch. 15)
Final exam	25%	TBD	TBD	Multiple choice + short/long answer	All lectures

*LC= learning curve – 2 will be given, one for each chapter noted

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary’s reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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%

In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topics, readings and tentative lecture schedule	
Tu Jan 03	<i>Winter term begins (Block week January 3-7)</i>	
M Jan 09	MODULE 1 <i>Comer ch. 1, 2, 3, 14</i>	<i>Start of Classes</i>
W Jan 11		Introduction & welcome, syllabus details, brief history of abnormal psychology
F Jan 13		Models of abnormality, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
M Jan 16		Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
W Jan 18		Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder & Autism spectrum disorder
Th Jan 19		Autism spectrum disorder & Intellectual disability
F Jan 20		<i>Last day to drop a class without financial penalty.</i>
M Jan 23	MODULE 2 <i>Comer ch. 6, 7, 14</i>	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>
W Jan 25		Intellectual disability wrap-up (20-min lecture only); Quiz 1
F Jan 27		Unipolar depression
M Jan 30		Unipolar and bipolar depression
W Feb 01		<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>
F Feb 03	MODULE 3 <i>Comer ch. 4, 5, 14</i>	Bipolar depression & Suicide
M Feb 06		Bipolar depression & Treatments for mood disorders
W Feb 08		Treatments wrap-up (20-min lecture only); Quiz 2
F Feb 10		Anxiety and panic disorders
M Feb 13		Obsessive-compulsive disorder
W Feb 08	No lecture; Midterm 1	
F Feb 10	Post-traumatic stress disorder	
M Feb 13	Treatments for anxiety and stress disorders (20-min lecture only); Quiz 3	

W Feb 15	MODULE 4 Comer ch. 5, 8, 12	Somatic symptom disorders
F Feb 17		Somatic symptom disorders
Feb 19-25		<i>Term Break, No Classes (University is Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)</i>
M Feb 27		Schizophrenia
W Mar 01		Schizophrenia & Dissociative disorders
F Mar 03		Dissociative disorders wrap-up (20-min lecture only); Quiz 4
M Mar 06	MODULE 5 Comer ch. 9, 10,	Eating disorders (+written assignment details)
W Mar 08		Eating & Addictive disorders
F Mar 10		Addictive disorders
M Mar 13		Disorders of sexuality and sexual identity
W Mar 15		Disorders of sexuality and sexual identity wrap-up (20-min lecture only); Quiz 5
F Mar 17	MODULE 6 Comer ch. 13	Personality disorders: Type A
M Mar 20		Personality disorders: Types A & B
W Mar 22		No lecture; Midterm 2
F Mar 24		Personality disorders: Types B & C
M Mar 27		Personality disorders: Type C
W Mar 29		Risk factors and treatment for personality disorders (20-min lecture only); Quiz 6
F Mar 31		Traumatic brain injury
M Apr 03	MODULE 7 Comer ch. 15	Aging, cognition, and late-life mental health; Written assignment due
W Apr 05		Mild cognitive impairment and dementia
F Apr 07		<i>Good Friday, University Closed</i>
M Apr 10		<i>Easter Monday, University Closed</i>
W Apr 12		Neurocognitive interventions (20-min lecture only); Quiz 7
W Apr 12		<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>
Apr 15-26	<i>Final Exam Period</i> Final Exam , exact date TBD	
W Apr 26	<i>End of Term</i>	

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 the 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 **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**.

Absence From Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html>. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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 [Deferred Final Exams | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology psyugrd@ucalgary.ca

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

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 [University of Calgary : B.6.1 Accommodation of Students with Disabilities or Medical Conditions \(ucalgary.ca\)](#)

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, January 19, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 20, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, April 12, 2023** [University of Calgary : Academic Schedule \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://www.ucalgary.ca/academic/schedule)