

Psyc 385 (L01)		Abnormal Psychology		Winter 2015	
<u>Instructor</u> (1/12-2/28):	Dr. Kristin von Ranson	Lecture Location:	ST 143		
Phone:	403-220-7085	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 3:30-4:45		
Email (preferred):	kvonrans@ucalgary.ca	Office Hours:	Tuesday 11:00-12:00		
Office:	A 272				
<u>Instructor</u> (3/1-4/29):	Sarah Farstad, M.Sc.	Office Hours:	Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm		
Phone:	587-227-1088				
Email (preferred):	sfarstad@ucalgary.ca				
Office:	A245				
<u>Teaching Assistants:</u>	Calandra Speirs	cspeirs@ucalgary.ca			
	TBA				

Course Description and Goals

This course surveys the field of adult psychopathology. It reviews the concept of abnormal behaviour, followed by the study of possible causes (etiology), classification, assessment, and treatment of major forms of abnormal behavior. The format of the class will be lectures, supplemented with class discussion, group activities, guest speakers, and videos. By the end of this course, you should be able to discuss the characteristic symptoms of each major mental disorder, as well as relevant psychological theories, research findings, and treatment strategies.

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

Required Text

Dozois, D. J. A. (2015). *Abnormal Psychology: Perspectives*, Fifth Edition. Toronto: Pearson. This text is available in the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

In addition to completing assigned readings, you must successfully complete the following course requirements to pass this course, including two assignments, a midterm exam and a final exam.

Exercise 1 (15% of final grade, due February 3 **by the start of class**): Mental health, stigma, and the media

After identifying a published, non-academic article related to mental health as well as relevant empirical research, you will write a 3- to 4-page double-spaced paper (plus references) comparing and contrasting the research with the mental health issue you have identified. Make sure to address the following questions: (1) To what degree is the article consistent or inconsistent with research findings? (2) To what degree does the article undermine or perpetuate mental health stigma? The paper should follow APA 6th edition style. More details will be posted in class and on Desire to Learn. Late assignments will be accepted, but the mark will be reduced by 10% per day, including weekends.

Midterm exam (35% of final grade, due March 3)

Covers all lecture material and readings through February 26. The exam may include multiple choice items, fill-ins, and short answer questions. No study aids will be permitted.

Exercise 2 (15% of final grade, due March 26 **by the start of class**): Abnormal Psychology in the Movies

The assignment is designed to help students develop a more in-depth understanding of the factors associated with psychological disorders, and the role that society and the media play in influencing and perpetuating certain stereotypes that may be associated with mental illness. The assignment will involve watching a popular film that depicts some form of psychopathology (a list of possible movies will be provided). In your paper, you will provide a comprehensive diagnosis of the character with the disorder and discuss his/her symptoms, as well as possible treatment options, based on course material. You will discuss the accuracy of the film's characterization of the disorder based on course material. You will reflect on the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about the disorder, as well the mental health profession in general. To discuss an issue in more length, you will select one scholarly article (from a peer-reviewed journal) of relevance to an aspect of the above content (i.e., assessment/diagnosis, treatment, stigma, etc.) in light of the specific disorder portrayed in the movie, and incorporate it into your discussion. This paper should be 3 to 4 double spaced pages in length, plus references. The paper should follow APA 6th edition style. More details will be posted in class and on Desire to Learn. Late assignments will be accepted, but the mark will be reduced by 10% per day, including weekends.

Final exam (35% of final grade, scheduled by Registrar)

Covers all lecture material and readings from March 5 through the end of the course. The exam may include multiple choice items, fill-ins, and short answer questions. No study aids will be permitted.

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 in 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%

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/Readings/Due Date
T Jan 13	Concepts of Abnormality Throughout History – Ch. 1
R Jan 15	Theoretical Perspectives on Abnormal Behaviour – Chapter 2
T Jan 20	Theoretical Perspectives on Abnormal Behaviour – Chapter 2
R Jan 22	Classification and Diagnosis – Chapter 3
F Jan 23	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
M Jan 26	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>
T Jan 27	Psychological Assessment and Research Methods – Chapter 4
R Jan 29	Anxiety and Related Disorders – Chapter 5
F Jan 30	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>
T Feb 3	Anxiety and Related Disorders – Chapter 5 – Assignment 1 due at the start of class.
R Feb 5	Dissociative and Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders – Chapter 6
T Feb 10	Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Conditions – Chapter 7
R Feb 12	Eating Disorders – Chapter 10
Feb 15-22	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).
M Feb 16	<i>Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
T Feb 24	Eating Disorders – Chapter 10
R Feb 26	Therapies – Chapter 17
T Mar 3	Midterm exam – covers readings through February 26
R Mar 5	Mood Disorders and Suicide– Chapter 8
T Mar 10	Mood Disorders and Suicide– Chapter 8
R Mar 12	Schizophrenia – Chapter 9
T Mar 17	Substance-related Disorders – Chapter 11
R Mar 19	Substance-related Disorders – Chapter 11
T Mar 24	Personality Disorders – Chapter 12
R Mar 26	Personality Disorders – Chapter 12– Assignment 2 due at the start of class.
T Mar 31	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (Chapter 13)
R Apr 2	Aging and Mental Health (Chapter 16)
T Apr 7	Aging and Mental Health (Chapter 16)
R Apr 9	Prevention/Promotion of Mental Health (Chapter 18)
T Apr 14	Mental Disorder and the Law (Chapter 19)
W Apr 15	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>
Apr 18-29	Winter Term Final Examinations. To be scheduled by Registrar. Covers readings since midterm [non-cumulative].

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

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.

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 except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

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 via the Department Office (Admin 255), 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 15, 2015**.

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

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.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 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 23rd, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 26th, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15th, 2015**.