



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 385 (L02) – Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Deborah Brown	Lecture Location:	A142
Phone:	403-662-3876	Lecture Days/Time:	Mon 1700-1950
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Office Hours:	By appointment	TA Phone:	220-9471

Course Description and Goals

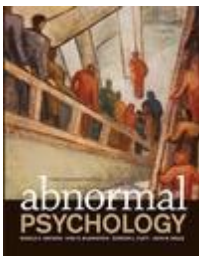
This course surveys the field of adult psychopathology. It reviews the history of psychopathology and covers symptoms (what the disorders look like), diagnosis (how we classify disorders), etiology (what causes disorders), assessment (how we measure disorders), treatment (how we intervene), and social implications (the effects that disorders have on the individual, their family and society) of mental disorders.

After completing this course students should be able to: discuss selected psychological disorders with regard to their classification, assessment and treatment, discuss causes of selected psychological disorders from an integrative perspective, locate current research articles addressing pertinent issues in abnormal psychology and provide citations and references according to APA format.

Prerequisites

Psychology 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text



Davison, G. C., Blankstein, K. R., Flett, G. L. & Neale, J. M. (2008).
Abnormal Psychology (3rd Canadian Edition). Mississauga: John Wiley
& Sons Canada, Ltd.

Available for purchase at the University of Calgary Bookstore

A study guide has also been made available in the University Bookstore. The study guide is not a required text. It is up to the student to decide if such a learning aid will be of any use.

Evaluation

Component Weighting toward final grade (Due date)

Midterm Exam	40% (October 19)
Final Exam	40% (To be scheduled by the Registrar)
Assignment #1	10% (due October 26)
Assignment #2	10% (due November 23)

Exams:

Exams will be two hours in length and consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. For both exams, you will be responsible for the **lecture material (videos, guest lectures, assigned readings, etc) and the material covered in the textbook.**

Assignment #1: 10%

"Abnormal Psychology in the Movies"

This assignment will involve watching a popular film that depicts some form of psychopathology. In your paper, you will provide a comprehensive diagnosis of the character with the disorder, and discuss his/her symptoms, prognosis, and treatment. You will also reflect on the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about people with the particular disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general. Finally, you will be asked to discuss the film's characterization in light of the current understanding of this disorder. Does the movie reflect in an accurate way the abnormal behavior? This paper should not exceed four double spaced pages in length. A list of possible movies will be given to you. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

Assignment #2: 10%

"Annotated Bibliography"

For this assignment, you will develop an annotated bibliography of three scholarly articles on a specific topic in abnormal psychology. The goal of this assignment is for you to gain a more thorough understanding of a research issue in the area of abnormal psychology than is possible through reading the required readings only. This is also an opportunity to learn more about a topic that the class covers briefly or not at all. In a sense, you will become a mini-expert in one topic. You will be graded on the quality of the articles you choose, the quality of your annotation, and the quality of your criticism – negative or positive. Use only articles from peer-reviewed journals. Most journals published by the American Psychological Association are peer reviewed. This assignment should not exceed three pages in length. You must include a photocopy of the abstract of the articles you have chosen to summarize. More details on this assignment will be provided in class and a teaching assistant will be available to assist you with this assignment.

Please note:

- Exams will NOT be cumulative.

- Late assignments will NOT be accepted without an official university medical excuse.
- Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
- A failing grade may be assigned to any student who fails to complete one or more of the exams.
- Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official university medical excuse (see University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled exam or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. Any medical excuses must be accompanied by a note from a physician.

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	
Sept 8	Lectures begin	
M Sept 14	History of Abnormal Behaviour/Current Paradigms	Chapters 1 & 2
F Sept 18	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	
M Sept 21	Classification and Diagnosis/Clinical Assessment Procedures	Chapters 3 & 4
T Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	
M Sept 28	Research Methods/Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5 & 6
M Oct 5	Mood Disorders	Chapter 10
M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day – University Closed	
M Oct 19	Midterm Exam – Film to follow the exam at 7:00 pm	
M Oct 26	Assignment #1 due - Autism – Guest Speaker Dr. Kim Ward	Chapter 15
M Nov 2	Eating Disorders and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 9 & 14
M Nov 9	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 11
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
M Nov 16	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 12
M Nov 23	Assignment #2 due - Personality Disorders – Guest Speaker Dr. Ryan Day	Chapter 13
M Nov 30	Paraphilias, Antisocial PD & Psychopathy	Chapter 13 & 14
M Dec 7	Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 18

	<i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research participation credits.</i>	
Dec 8	Fall session lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	
Dec 11-21	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)	

• **Note:** In addition to the chapters, there will be additional assigned readings posted for you on the Blackboard. Adjustments may be made to our class schedule and readings as required.

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. 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 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

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 an individual'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 research and allocate credits to courses is December 7th, 2009.

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 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 8th, 2009**.