



Psychology 385

Abnormal Psychology

Instructor:	Shadi Beshai	Lecture Location:	ST 145
Phone:	403-220-4971	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 16:00 to 16:50
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Office:	A 233B		
Office Hours:	By Appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course will provide an overview of the field of 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 audiovisual material will also be utilized. Discussion regarding attitudes towards mental disorders, as well as current mental health ethics and legislation in Canada will take place. 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.

Prerequisites

Psychology 205—Principles of Psychology

Required Text

Abnormal Psychology (Eighth Edition). Ronald J. Comer (2013). Worth Publishers. *Available in bookstore.*

Evaluation

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to do assigned readings and to participate in classroom activities. There will be three noncumulative examinations in the course. These will include materials from the textbook, special readings, as well as the lectures. All examinations will be multiple choice, short-answer and brief essay (no more than one page in length) in format. The two midterms will each be worth 33% of the final grade and the final examination will be worth 34% of the final grade. The first midterm will take place on October 5th and the second midterm will take place on November 5th. The final examination will be scheduled by the registrar and take place during the scheduled examination period. Please note that on some topics, the lectures will be the only source of information, therefore, regular attendance is important for success in this course. The course notes are provided to assist the student in understanding the material and are not intended to replace class attendance. Students having difficulties should approach the course instructor as soon as possible. Samples for the written portion of the examinations will be provided

and discussed in class prior to the exam dates.

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	Required Reading *Comer (2013)
Mon Sept 10	Introduction and Historical Background	Chapter 1
Wed Sept 12	Introduction and Historical Background Part 2	Chapter 1
Fri Sept 14	Models of Abnormality	Chapter 3
Mon Sept 17	Models of Abnormality Part 2	Chapter 3
Wed Sept 19	Diagnosis and Assessment	Chapter 4
Fri Sept 21	Diagnosis and Assessment Part 2	Chapter 4
Mon Sept 24	Anxiety and Related Disorders	Chapter 5
Wed Sept 26	Anxiety and Related Disorders Part 2	Chapter 5
Fri Sept 28	Anxiety and Related Disorders (PTSD) Part 3	Chapter 6 (Pg. 153-168 only).
Mon Oct 1	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 7
Wed Oct 3	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders Part 2	Chapter 7
Friday Oct 5	Midterm Exam 1 (33 %)	Covers chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 (pg. 153-168 only), and 7. Also covers all lecture slides and audiovisual material presented in class.
Mon Oct 8	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS!	-----
Wed Oct 10	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8
Fri Oct 12	Mood Disorders Part 2	Chapter 8
Mon Oct 15	Depression Around the world: Special Look	*Special Reading (1)
Wed Oct 17	Treatment of Unipolar Depression	Chapter 9 (Pg. 257-277 only).
Fri Oct 19	Suicide	Chapter 10
Mon Oct 22	Suicide Part 2	Chapter 10
Wed Oct 24	Eating Disorders	Chapter 11

Friday Oct 26	Eating Disorders Part 2	Chapter 11
Mon Oct 29	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 12
Wed Oct 31	Substance-Related Disorders Part 2	Chapter 12
Fri Nov 2	Substance-related Disorders Part 3	Chapter 12
Monday Nov 5	Midterm Exam 2 (33%)	Covers Chapters 8, 9 (pg. 257-277 only), 10, 11, and 12. Also covers all lecture slides, special readings, and audiovisual material presented in class.
Wed Nov 7	Sexual Disorders + Gender Identity	Chapter 13
Fri Nov 9	Sexual Disorders + Gender Identity Part 2	Chapter 13
Mon Nov 12	Remembrance Day – NO CLASS!	-----
Wed Nov 14	Pedophilia: Special Look	Chapter 13
Fri Nov 16	Psychosis/Schizophrenia	Chapter 14
Mon Nov 19	Treatment of Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
Wed Nov 21	Treatment of Schizophrenia Part 2	Chapter 15
Fri Nov 23	Personality Disorders	Chapter 16
Mon Nov 26	Personality Disorders Part 2	Chapter 16
Wed Nov 28	Personality Disorders Part 3	Chapter 16 + Special Reading (2)
Fri Nov 30	Childhood Disorders	Chapter 17
Mon Dec 03	Childhood Disorders Part 2	Chapter 17
Wed Dec 05	Autism: Special Look	-----
Mon Dec 07	Wrap Up + Exam Q and A	-----
Date TBA	Final Exam (34%)	Covers chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Also covers all lecture slides, special readings, and audiovisual material presented in class.

Special Readings (Will be made available on Blackboard).

1- Ryder, A. G., Yang, J., & Heine, S. J. (2002). Somatization vs. Psychologization of Emotional Distress: A Paradigmatic Example for Cultural Psychopathology. *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*, Unit 10. Retrieved from <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/orpc/vol10/iss2/3>

2- Widiger, T. A., & Trull, T. J. (2007). Plate tectonics in the classification of personality disorder: Shifting to a dimensional model. *American Psychologist*, 62, 71–83.

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 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.

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 275), 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 **December 7, 2012.**

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 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 21, 2012.** Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 24, 2012.** The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 7, 2012.**