

Psychology 362, Section A
Abnormal Psychology
Dr. Lori Toedter, PPHAC Room 227

Spring 2010
M/W 2:35-3:45

Course Description: This course presents an opportunity for all of us to reconsider our notions of mental health and illness. One focus will be on the attempt to objectively define various behavior disorders using DSM-IV criteria. We will also look at contemporary research and theory concerning possible etiology, treatment and prevention of behavior disorders. Case presentations and discussion of movie clips will be used to increase student awareness of the experiences of persons who are said to exhibit “abnormal” behavior. Student discussion and participation enliven the course and are thus highly valued.

Objectives: After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Use the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual-IV (DSM-IV) of the American Psychiatric Association to determine the most likely diagnosis based upon the symptoms presented in a case.
2. Apply your knowledge of research methodology in determining the validity of research results in the field of abnormal psychology.
3. Research and write a literature review to answer a question about a mental disorder of your choice.
4. Work in a group to develop and portray a case study for others to diagnose.
5. Discuss contemporary biopsychosocial theories and treatments for a variety of mental disorders.

Texts: Sarason, I., & Sarason, B. (2005) Abnormal Psychology (11th ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Preston, J., & Johnson, J. (2009) Clinical Psychopharmacology Made Ridiculously Simple (6th ed.) Miami, FL: Medmaster.

DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria (“DSM-IV” on reserve at Library)

Students Please Note: I reserve the right to modify the class schedule/syllabus as needed to keep the course flowing smoothly. Only under extreme circumstances (e.g. multiple cancellations due to severe weather) will I change due dates for major assignments or exams.

Class Schedule

<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment DUE</u>
(1) Mon 1/18	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	None
(2) Wed 1/20	Biological Theories of Mental Illness (Genetics)	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 1 (pp. 3-28) <u>Text</u> , Ch. 2 HW: History of MI
(3) Mon 1/25	Biological Theories (Biochemistry) Therapeutic Approaches & Evaluation	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 3 <u>P&J</u> , Ch. 1 HW: List of Topics
(4) Wed 1/27	Overview: DSM-IV	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 4, pp. 127-142 HW: The Neuron <i>Personality Mastery Quiz today at end of class</i>
(5) Mon 2/1	Stress-based Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 5 HW: Therapeutic Approaches
(6) Wed 2/3	Stress-based Disorders (cont.)	Read case handouts Topic Sheet DUE
(7) Mon 2/8	EXAM #1 (Ch. 1-4)	Prepare for Exam
(8) Wed 2/10	Anxiety Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 8 HW: Justify your diagnosis DUE
(9) Mon 2/15	Anxiety Disorders (cont.) Case #1	<u>P&J</u> , Ch. 4
(10) Wed 2/17	Anxiety Disorders (cont.)	Reference Sheet DUE
(11) Mon 2/22	Schizophrenic Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 12 Begin ordering references
(12) Wed 2/24	Schizophrenic Disorders (cont.) Case #2	<u>P&J</u> , Ch. 5

<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment DUE</u>
(13) Mon 3/1	Schizophrenic Disorders (cont.) Overview: Personality Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 10
(14) Wed 3/3	Personality Disorders (cont.) <i>Case #3</i>	<i>Last date for approval of <u>all</u> references to be used in paper</i> HW: Completed Case Study packet
<i>Spring Break—Enjoy!!</i>		
(15) Mon 3/15	Personality Disorders (cont.)	Review all ordered articles for suitability & choose the ones you will use
(16) Wed 3/17	Overview: Mood Disorders	Prepare for Exam
(17) Mon 3/22	EXAM #2 (Ch. 5, 8, 10, 12)	Prepare for Exam
(18) Wed 3/24	<i>Girl Interrupted*</i>	Work on Question Sheet
<p>*Because we have only 27 class meetings while the B section has 28, we will not be able to take 2 full periods to watch this movie. There are 3 options before completing your homework for Monday 3/30: (1) stay after class until about 4:30 today to see the end; (2) join section B at 1:10 on Tuesday March 30th to see the end; or (3) rent the movie to watch the remainder.</p>		
(19) Mon 3/29	Mood Disorders (cont.)	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 11, pp. 331-56
(20) Wed 3/31	Mood Disorders (cont.)	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 11, pp. 356-69 Literature Review DUE
<i>Easter Break—Enjoy!!</i>		
(21) Wed 4/7	Eating Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 6, pp. 190-8 <u>P&J</u> , Ch. 2 & 3 HW: <i>Girl Interrupted</i> Question sheet DUE
(22) Mon 4/12	Substance-Related Disorders <i>Case #4</i>	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 14
(23) Wed 4/14	Overview: Childhood Disorders & Internalizing Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 15, pp. 495-512
(24) Mon 4/19	Childhood Disorders: Externalizing <i>Case #5</i>	None

<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment DUE</u>
(25) Wed 4/21	Childhood Disorders: Externalizing <i>Case #6</i>	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 15, pp. 479-495
(26) Mon 4/26	Childhood Disorders: ADHD <i>Case #7</i>	<u>P&J</u> , Ch. 6 (ADD)
(27) Wed 4/28	Autism	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 16, pp. 515-32

Final Exam: Monday, May 3rd at 8:30am
Chap. 6 (pp. 190-8 only), Chap. 11, 14, 15, 16 (pp. 515-532 only)

Grading Procedure:

Personality Mastery Quiz	5%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Case Presentation	15%
Literature Review	20%
Attendance, Participation & Homework	15%
Final Exam	15%

The *personality (theory) mastery quiz* is a new addition to the course this Spring, since our need to open a second section during registration lead to a number of students being allowed to take the course without the prerequisite of PSYC 361 (Personality). All students, whether they have taken PSYC 361 or not, will take a 10 item mastery quiz at the end of class on the date indicated in the syllabus. Students who get less than 7 correct *must* take another version of the quiz at a time to be arranged outside of class. Any student may take the quiz up to 3 times with the goal of getting as close to 100% as possible for this 5% of their grade. Questions will be based on the personality theory concepts presented in Chapter 2 of the text (pp. 59-81) only, so it will not be necessary for students who have completed PSYC 361 to study their notes or text from that course. Note, however, that there are some theoretical approaches discussed in Chapter 2 that are not covered in PSYC 361 (e.g. interactionism) so it is important for all students to review that material carefully.

The *in-class exams* will be approximately 60% multiple choice questions and 40% short essay and will not be cumulative. However, should a student miss an exam for any reason, or wish to raise a low grade, he or she will take *a cumulative final*. The score obtained on the cumulative exam will then count twice: once as the final exam and also as a replacement for the missed or low scoring exam.

Case presentations will involve students working in groups of three or four to present a case for the class to diagnose. Books of case studies are on reserve for the course at the

library to help you with ideas. The case must be based on a disorder covered in class prior to the presentation date. **Cases selected must be approved by me before you begin!** For the best grade, please follow the procedure below:

- (a) meet as a group to develop a case that will best illustrate the disorder(s) you will be portraying.
- (b) assign roles to group members (typically therapist, client and some “significant other” like a spouse, child, parent)
- (c) develop background “case history” material to introduce the case to the class (in real life this would most often come out of the client’s file)
- (d) prepare a role play interview of the client and significant other by the therapist—be certain to review enough material about the disorder to know how the client would behave and how he/she would relate to the significant other
- (e) be prepared to lead a discussion on diagnosis and treatment options

The *literature review* will involve the review of at least 5 articles on a disorder you will select. The disorder must appear in the textbook, although it does not need to be a disorder that we cover in class. Please pay careful attention to the deadlines for the various phases of the paper research and writing process. Missing deadlines will result in 3 points per day deducted from the Attendance/Participation/Homework grade. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of 3 points per day deducted from the literature review grade. ***Papers based on unapproved topics or references will not be accepted.*** ***The last date for approval of the final set of references that will appear in the reference list of your paper can be found on the Class Schedule.***

Attendance, Participation and Homework will make up the final 20% of your grade. I will keep track of ***attendance*** by asking you to sign an attendance sheet each day. Please be aware that since attendance is a part of your grade, signing another student in, or asking another student to sign you in, is a breach of Academic Honesty. The attendance portion of this grade will start at 100 points and will be reduced by 4 points for an unexcused absence, 2 points with a valid excuse (e.g. doctor’s note, note from other professor or from Student Services). ***Participation*** will reflect your engagement in class discussions and your involvement in asking quality questions of the case presenters. Library assignments completed correctly and on time will count toward this portion of your grade, as will other ***homework*** assignments distributed during the semester, most of which are noted on the class schedule.

Extra Credit is available through participation in the psychology department subject pool. You may earn up to 3 extra credit points (each ½ hour of participation is worth 1 point). In addition to these three points, other extra credit opportunities will be announced as they arise during the semester.

Calculating your Grade:

To calculate your final grade, I first add any extra credit points earned and then weight each grade according to the percentages given above. For example, if an exam is worth 15% and you score an 80 on it, I multiply (.15) (80) for a point total of 12. Adding these points together for all the grading components listed above will give you your final grade for the course (out of 100 points). These points are then converted to a letter grade as follows:

92.6-100	=	A
89.6 – 92.5	=	A-
86.6– 89.5	=	B+
82.6 – 86.5	=	B
79.6 – 82.5	=	B-
76.6 – 79.5	=	C+
72.6 – 76.5	=	C
69.6 – 72.5	=	C-
66.6 – 69.5	=	D+
62.6 – 66.5	=	D
59.6 – 62.5	=	D-
less than 59.6	=	F

Students Please Note: It is within the course instructor's purview to use qualitative judgments in the assignment of grades. If at any time you have questions about where you stand in the course, please come see me.

Students with learning disabilities who need special accommodations for this course should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer in Learning Services at 1307 Main Street (ext. 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from Learning Services based upon proper documentation of the conditions and needed accommodations. *Use of a laptop in class is an accommodation requiring such documentation.*

Blackboard: Please log on to Blackboard for this course right away. In addition to posting my office hours and reminders, I will post the syllabus and other important handouts. I will also post your major grades and links to short videos that would be helpful for you to watch.

Portfolios: Beginning in the Fall of 2008, each student who majors in psychology will have a portfolio of writing assignments, completed as a part of his or her coursework, maintained by the department. Each psychology syllabus from this point forward will designate which writing assignment will be included in the portfolio. For this class, your literature review paper will serve as that writing assignment. Only psychology faculty members will have access to your portfolio, which will be used to assess and improve our ability to meet a major goal for our department: training our students to write professionally using APA style.

Academic Honesty: The College has an official policy on Academic Honesty. If you are not familiar with the policy, a copy appears in your student handbook and on AMOS. The Psychology Department requires the use of APA format for referencing. Be sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. I will be happy to clarify any points you may not understand.

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:15-2:15pm & 3:45-4:45pm*

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:30am-noon*

or by appointment

***may be held in PPHAC 112 as needed**

Please see Blackboard for any weekly revisions to regular office hours.

(email: meljt01@moravian.edu) (Telephone 610-861-1565)

e-mail is the preferred means of contacting me. Phone messages will be returned via e-mail, except for special circumstances. If you are using an e-mail address other than your college address, please change this in your personal information for this course on Blackboard (see me for help if needed).