

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, with a look ahead to anticipated changes coming in DSM-5. We will also consider 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.

Text: Halgin, R.P., & Whitbourne, S.K. (2010) *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York: McGraw-Hill.

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 8/27	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	None
(2) Wed 8/29	Overview: DSM-IV	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 1
	<i>No class Monday: Labor Day</i>	
(3) Wed 9/5	History of Mental Illness	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 2 <b>HW: List of Topics</b>
(4) Mon 9/10	Treatment Efficacy Introduction to EBM	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 3, pp. 69-79 & 94-101 <b>HW: History of MI</b>
(5) Wed 9/12	Theoretical Approaches	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 4
(6) Mon 9/17	Theoretical Approaches (cont.)	<b>HW: The Neuron Topic Sheet DUE</b>
(7) Wed 9/19	Anxiety Disorders	<i>Prepare for Exam</i>
(8) Mon 9/24	<b>EXAM #1 (Ch. 1-4)</b> <i>Ch. 4 personality material as take home</i>	<i>Prepare for Exam</i> <b>Revised Topic Sheet DUE, if needed</b>
(9) Wed 9/26	Anxiety Disorders (cont.)	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 5
(10) Mon 10/1	Anxiety Disorders (cont.)	<b>Reference Sheet DUE</b>
(11) Wed 10/3	Mood Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 8
	<b><i>Fall Break—Enjoy!!</i></b>	
(12) Wed 10/10	Mood Disorders (cont.)	<i>Order/obtain approved references (or resubmit list for approval by next class if needed)</i>
(13) Mon 10/15	<b>Case #1</b> Overview Personality Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 10

<u>Class Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment DUE</u>
(14) Wed 10/17	Personality Disorders (cont.)	<i>Choose the 5 articles you will use from your approved list</i>
(15) Mon 10/22	Overview: Schizophrenia	<b><i>Last date to <u>add</u> to reference list</i></b>
(16) Wed 10/24	<b>EXAM #2 (Ch. 5, 8, 10)</b>	<i>Prepare for Exam</i>
(17) Mon 10/29	Schizophrenia (cont.)	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 9
(18) Wed 10/31	Schizophrenia (cont.)	<i>Work on literature review</i>
(19) Mon 11/5	<b><i>Girl Interrupted</i></b>	<i>Work on literature review</i>
(20) Wed 11/7	<b><i>Girl Interrupted</i></b>	<b>Literature Review DUE</b>
(21) Mon 11/12	Eating Disorders	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 14, pp. 428-439; 452-455 <b><i>Girl Interrupted diagnosis assignment DUE</i></b>
(22) Wed 11/14	Overview: Substance-Related Disorders <b><i>Case #2</i></b>	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 13
(23) Mon 11/19	Substance-Related Disorders (cont.) <b><i>Case #3</i></b>	
<b><i>Thanksgiving Break—Enjoy!!</i></b>		
(24) Mon 11/26	Developmental Disorders: MR & Autistic Spectrum	<u>Text</u> , Ch.11, pp. 340-348
(25) Wed 11/28	Developmental Disorders: Externalizing <b><i>Case #4</i></b>	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 11, pp. 348-356
(26) Mon 12/3	Developmental Disorders: Externalizing (cont.) <b><i>Case #5</i></b>	<u>Text</u> , Ch. 11, pp. 358-362

**Class Meeting****Topic****Assignment DUE**

(27) Wed 12/5

Developmental Disorders:  
Internalizing  
*Case #6*

*Prepare for Final  
exam*

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am

Ch. 9, 11\*, 13, 14\* [\*only assigned pages] (15%)  
Open book case analysis (5%)

Grading Procedure:

<b>Exam 1</b>	15%
<b>Exam 2</b>	15%
<b>Case Presentation</b>	15%
<b>Literature Review</b>	20%
<b>Attendance, Participation &amp; Homework</b>	15%
<b>Final Exam</b> (includes 5% open-book case analysis portion)	20%

The two regular *exams* will be approximately 60% multiple choice questions and 40% short essay and will not be cumulative. The regular final exam will be in the same format as Exams 1 & 2, but will also include an open book case analysis portion that will count for 5%. The case analysis portion may include any of the diagnoses we have covered during the term.

Should a student miss an exam for any reason, or wish to raise a low grade on Exam 1 or 2, he or she will take a *cumulative final* in place of (and at the same time as) the regular final. This exam will be 50% identification of terms and 50% short essay. 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. Students taking the cumulative final will also take the open book case analysis portion of the final exam described above.

*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 unapproved references will not be accepted.***

***Attendance, Participation and Homework*** will make up the final 15% 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. Late homework will be accepted with a valid excuse (see above). Otherwise a 2 point per day penalty will be imposed. ***In no case will homework be accepted for credit after it has been discussed in class.***

***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** who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level (ext. 7625). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support center.

**Blackboard:** Please log on to Blackboard for this course right away. In addition to posting any changes to my office hours and reminders, I will post the syllabus, other important handouts, and your major grades.

**Portfolios:** For this class, your literature review paper will be the writing assignment that will be copied for inclusion in your portfolio.

**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: 1:00-2:30 pm  
Thursdays 2:20-3:30pm

*or by appointment*

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e-mail is the preferred means of contacting me. Phone messages will be returned via e-mail, except for special circumstances.