

Abnormal Psychology—PSYC 325 (B01) Summer 2013 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Jenna Calton
Class Schedule: TR 7:20-10:00 pm
Class Location: Sandbridge Hall Room 107

Office Hours: T & R 6:15-7:15pm or by appointment
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Contact: jcalton@gmu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology! This course provides an overview of the theories and phenomenology currently defining the field of abnormal psychology. We will discuss specific forms of mental illness, the causes and subjective experience of psychopathology, as well as assessment and treatment of mental illness. The format of this course is primarily lecture, although classes will also include discussion, in-class activities, and films.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To increase students' knowledge of the historical foundations, assessment, and treatment of mental illness and "abnormal" behavior, with a particular emphasis on the biopsychosocial perspective.
- To enhance students' appreciation of the subjective experience of mental illness.

TEXT

Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2011). *(Ab)normal Psychology* (5th Ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. *Required.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance & Participation: In-class participation is a vital part of the course and students are expected to attend every class. Over the course of the semester, 7 in-class activities will be assigned and graded for completion (worth 10 points each), which will serve as a measure of attendance and participation. In-class activities will be brief assignments to be written and submitted during that same class session. Only 5 of these activities will count toward students' final grade, so 2 can be missed without penalty. No make-up assignments will be provided. Information and announcements disseminated in class will not necessarily be repeated over e-mail or on Blackboard. If an absence is unavoidable, students should connect with one another to find out what was missed. A diversity of viewpoints is welcomed and encouraged in discussions and activities.

Assigned Reading: Reading assignments should be completed before class. In class, I will assume that you have completed that week's reading. There will be some overlap between lectures and assigned readings, but novel information will also be presented in each source. Exam questions can be drawn from either source.

Exams: There will be 4 multiple-choice exams (3 exams and 1 cumulative final), worth 100 points each. Each student's lowest exam score will be dropped. If a student misses an exam, that exam will constitute the drop and he/she will be required to take the cumulative final. No makeup exams will be given. If a student is satisfied with his/her scores on the first 3 exams, he/she does not have to take the cumulative final.

Online Materials: Course materials and information will be available on Blackboard, including a copy of this syllabus, exam dates, case studies, and an abbreviated version of the PowerPoint slides used in class. PowerPoint slides will be posted weekly (before class), and answers to blank spaces will be provided in class. The abbreviated slides are meant to help you take notes quickly, not to replace lectures. Grades will also be posted on Blackboard.

Electronics: The use of cell phones is unacceptable during class time. Because of the potential for distraction, the use of laptops in class is discouraged. If you have a specific reason for needing to take notes on a laptop in class, please contact the instructor.

Honor Code: The Honor Code of George Mason University deals specifically with cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Students should be familiar with the code and connected policies, set out at <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies>. This course will be conducted in accordance with those policies.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All accommodations must be arranged through that office.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72=C-; 65-69 = D; below 65 = F.

Grades will consist of:

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| 1. In-class activities (best 5 out of 7) | 50 points | (15%) |
| 2. Exams (best 3 out of 4) | 300 points | (85%) |

Total: 350 points

COURSE SCHEDULE

The last day to add classes (and to drop without penalty) is June 12, last day to drop (50% penalty) is June 19. This course schedule is tentative and may change, in which case the instructor will inform students via email, lecture, and Blackboard.

DATE		TOPIC	READING/ASSIGNMENT
Week 1:	6/4	Introduction & Considering Abnormality	Text: Chapter 1
	6/6	Theories and Treatment	Text: Chapter 2 Torrey, E. F. (1997)*
Week 2:	6/11	Assessment and Diagnosis	Text: Chapter 3
	6/13	EXAM 1 --- IN CLASS Mood Disorders and Suicide	
Week 3:	6/18	Mood Disorders and Suicide (cont.)	Text: Chapter 7
	6/20	Anxiety Disorders	Text: Chapter 5
Week 4:	6/25	Anxiety Disorders (cont.)	PTSD case study (on Blackboard)
	6/27	Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	Text: Chapter 8 Text: Chapter 6 (pp.167-172)
Week 5:	7/2	EXAM 2 --- IN CLASS Personality Disorders	
	7/4	No class—Happy 4 th of July!	
Week 6:	7/9	Personality Disorders (cont.)	Text: Chapter 9
	7/11	Eating Disorders	Text: Chapter 12
Week 7:	7/16	Substance-Related Disorders	Text: Chapter 14
	7/18	EXAM 3 ---- IN CLASS Childhood Disorders	
Week 8:	7/23	Childhood Disorders Final Exam Review/Q&A	Text: Chapter 10 Bring questions about course material and the final exam
	7/25	EXAM 4-Cumulative Final	(Same time and location as regular classes)

*Excerpted from Torrey, E.F. (1997). *Out of the Shadows: Confronting America's Mental Illness Crisis*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997. Accessible as a “special report” at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/asylums/>. The link is posted on Blackboard, if you have trouble using this one.