Psychology 3N03  Course Outline

Dr. L.E. Roberts                                  September 2001

Lecture Hours                                      Graduate Tutors

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 - 9:20 a.m.          Steve Howell
TSH B128                                              Judy Plantinga
                                                      Chan Kulatunga-Moruzi

Required Texts


The third item above consists of several hand-outs that will be used in class and a study guide. It should be purchased at the beginning of the course and kept with your lecture notes so as to be available during lecture hours. Additional required reading may be announced in class and if so will be made available in the undergraduate reserve reading room of Mills Library. It is the student’s responsibility to take note of additional reading assignments so announced.

Supplementary Readings

Your textbook (Seligman et al.) comes with a CD featuring an on-line case book and video excerpts, DSM-IV criteria, and links to the internet. The contents of this CD are not assigned but are available for your purusal. The following additional optional supplementary readings are available for students interested in multimedia course materials or who would like to examine additional case histories. Copies are on reserve under Psychology 3N03 in Mills Library.

2. Roberts, L.E. Selected case histories for Psychology 3N03

Other suggested readings may be announced in class from time to time (journal articles or books located in the Health Sciences or Thode Libraries). These readings will not be placed on reserve but can be procured through the usual library channels.

Course Content

Psychology 3N03 is a general introduction to mental disorders. We review the history of ideas about mental disorder, descriptive concepts of mental illness, diagnostic practice, clinical prediction, treatment methods, and the mental health professions. Selected disorders
(schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, somatoform and dissociative disorders, neuropsychological disorders, sexual paraphilias) are discussed to illustrate basic principles. Emphasis is placed on how viewpoints of psychopathology and human nature are connected and how these viewpoints appear to be changing with developments in science and thought.

An outline of lecture topics and reading assignments is given on page 4 below. This outline is subject to change. Any changes in lecture topics or reading assignments will be announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to take note of these changes.

Several 16 mm films will be shown in class to illustrate various behavioral disorders. These films are also available on videocassette for individual viewing in the audio-visual section of the Health Sciences Library. Their call numbers are WM-TV575 (Schizophrenia and Paranoid states) and WM-TV576 (Affective Disorders, Dementia).

**Internet Resources**

There is a plethora of information available about mental disorders on the internet. One useful web site is the Mental Health Net (http://mentalhelp.net). Core areas covered by the Mental Health Net include disorders and treatments, professional resources, a “reading room”, and managed care. Links are provided to numerous other sites dealing with a wide range of topics relating to mental health. Key word searches are also accommodated. Seligman, Walker, and Rosenhan also have a web site to support your textbook (http://www.wwnorton.com/abnormal). These and other useful links (including links to graduate training programmes in Clinical Psychology at most Canadian universities) are found on the Psychology 3N03 web site at http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology (click on undergraduate studies).

**Evaluation of Students**

Two 50-minute examinations will be given in class. These tests cover lecture material and readings assigned since the previous test. In addition, a two-hour final examination will be scheduled during the December Examination Period. The final examination covers the entire course.

All tests including the final examination consist of short answer questions (multiple choice format is not used). Sample questions are given in the two Study Guides beginning on pages 48 and 60 of this supplement. Some of the questions listed for Psychology 3NN3 may apply to Psychology 3N03 as well. If so, the relevant questions will be indicated in class.

The date of each examination for Psychology 3N03 and their relative weightings are given below (the date of the final examination will be determined by the Registrar). *It is not possible to schedule make-up tests, so enter these dates in your calendar now.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Friday September 28th</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Friday November 2nd</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>December Examination</td>
<td>(50%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marks on each test will be determined by the standard McMaster Grading System (see page 23 of the 2001/2002 Undergraduate Calendar). The final course grade for each student will be the average of marks they obtained on the three examinations weighted as indicated above. The instructor reserves the right to adjust course marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. The instructor also reserves the right to adjust test format and examination procedures if necessitated by course enrollment or diminished resources.

Notice the early date of the first examination. This test will cover the readings assigned for Topic A of the course outline (Descriptive Concepts) and the lectures up to and including the lecture on September 28th. Question A-1 of the Study Guide on page 48 of this supplement lists many (although not necessarily all) of the descriptive concepts that students will be expected to know for Examination #1.

Instructors are asked to remind students of the University’s Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty, which are found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration. These documents are also available in the Senate Office. Students infringing on these resolutions will be treated in accordance with the published policy.

Reading Assignments and Lecture Topics

Assigned readings and an outline of lecture topics are given on the next page. Students should be aware that the lectures in this course go well beyond the material given in the text and (with the exception of test #1) tend to be given more emphasis on examinations than the assigned readings.

Tutorials

It has been my practice to offer a tutorial prior to each class test and your final examination. The time and place of these optional pre-test tutorials will be announced in class. The graduate tutors are available to assist you during their office hours or by appointment throughout the term. I am also available on a drop-in basis or by appointment. Email questions are accepted at <roberts@mcmaster.ca>.
Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings  Psychology 3N03*

A) Descriptive Concepts

Overview of the DSMs  
Anxiety disorders  
  Phobias  
  Post-traumatic stress disorder  
  Panic disorder  
  Agoraphobia  
  Generalized anxiety disorder  
  Obsessive compulsive disorder  
  Somatoform and dissociative disorders  
  Somatoform disorders  
  Dissociative disorders  
  Multiple identity disorder  
Mood disorders  
  Depressive disorders  
  Bipolar disorders  
Developmental disorders  
  Eating disorders  
  Tourettes disorder  
  Disruptive behavior disorders (conduct, ADHD)  
Personality disorders  
  Odd-Eccentric  
  Dramatic-Erratic  
  Anxious-Fearful  
Schizophrenia  
  Dementia, delirium, delusional disorder  
  Psychophysiological disorders  
  Gender identity disorders, paraphilias  
  Substance dependence and abuse

B) Viewpoints and History

Group 1
  Organic Disease
  Neuroscience View
  Psychodynamic Approaches  
  Psychological Disorder  
  Behavioral Viewpoints

Group 2
  Diathesis-stress  
  Labeling theory  
  Existential/humanistic

C) Defining Abnormality

D) Diagnostic practice: Reliability and Validity

E) Assessment and Clinical Prediction

F) Treatment Approaches

* SWR designates Seligman, Walker, & Rosenhan, Abnormal Psychology (4th edition). The entire chapter is assigned except where pages are given in parentheses; in this case, only the pages indicated in parentheses are assigned. GC designates Gorenstein & Comer, Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology. In GC, read all sections up to (but not including) “_____ in Treatment”, except for GC 15 and 19 which are to be read in their entirety.