McMaster University
Fall Semester, 2004

Psychology 3N03
Abnormal Psychology I (Fundamentals)

Instructor: Katherine Owens

Teaching Assistants: Chris Gilbert
Jessica Phillips-Silver
Romina Coppa-Hoppman

Office: PC 303

Phone (with voice mail): 905 525-9140 extension 23215
E-mail: katherine.owens@accesscomm.ca

Psychology 3N03: ‘Fundamentals of clinical psychology, including viewpoints on
the nature of behavioural disorders, diagnostic systems, clinical judgement, and
treatment approaches.’ In addition, an introduction to selected categories of
psychological disorders, treatment efficacy, and legal issues will be covered.

Abnormal Psychology (Canadian Edition). Etobicoke, ON: John Wiley and Sons
Canada, Ltd.

insane places. Science, 179, 250-258.

Available free on-line at:
http://web.cocc.edu/l/minorevans/on_being_sane_in_insane_places.htm
~and~
http://members.aol.com/ahunter3/psych_inmates_libfront/vol_2/Rosenhan/rosenhan.html

Reading: Below you will find a tentative course outline. You are responsible for
both the textbook readings and lecture materials. Note that I will not be lecturing
simply from the text. At times I will follow the textbook closely, at other times I will
not.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class…</th>
<th>Readings and Lecture Topics…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Tuesday September 14** | **Chapter 1** (Introduction: Definition and Historical Considerations)  
Introductions  
Review syllabus  
Examples and Definitions of Abnormal Behaviour** |
| **September 21** | **Chapter 1**  
History of Psychopathology**  
Overview and Assignment of Term Paper (Due November 23) |
| **September 28** | **Chapter 2** (Current Paradigms)  
Biological Paradigm  
Psychoanalytic Paradigm  
Humanistic Paradigm |
| **October 5** | **Chapter 2**  
Learning (Behavioural) Paradigm  
Cognitive Paradigm  
Additional Thoughts on Abnormal Behaviour  
Diathesis-Stress  
Social Factors**  
Pick up potential essay questions for midterm exam |
| **October 12** | **Chapter 3** (Classification and Diagnosis)  
Classification**  
DSM  
Multiaxial Classification  
Issues in Classification |
| **October 19** | **MIDTERM EXAM 7:00 - 8:30**  
(Chapters 1, 2 & 3) (35%)  
9:00 FILM |
**October 26**  |  **Chapter 4** (Clinical Assessment Procedures)
 Reliability and Validity**
 Psychological Assessment
 Interviews
 Psychological Tests

**November 2**  |  **Chapter 4**
 (Hope to have midterm back)
 Psychological Assessment
 Observation**
 Biological Assessment

**November 9**  |  **Chapter 5** (Research Methods)
 Specific Methods**

**November 16**  |  **Introduction to selected types of Psychological Disorders**
 Please read the overview/intro pages listed for each of the following disorders (main text and case study boxes)

 Anxiety disorders (pp. 166-167 [up to phobias] and 192-193)
 Mood disorders (pp.296-297 [up to formal listings])
 Schizophrenia (pp. 338-343 [up to history])**
 Personality disorders (pp. 426-430 [up to odd/eccentric])

**November 23**  |  **Paper due (25%)**
 **Film (80 minutes) Bellview, Inside and Out.**
 FINISH Introduction to selected types of psychological disorders

**November 30**  |  **LAST DAY OF CLASS!**
 **Chapter 17** (Outcomes and Issues in Psychological Intervention)
 Efficacy / Evaluations of Various Interventions
 Course evaluation
 Class photo 😊
 Pick up final exam potential essay questions
December 11

FINAL (40%)
Based on chapters 4, 5, & 17
[plus brief overview portions from 6, 9, 10, 11 & 13].

Term papers will be available to pick up after the final exam.

Grading: In order to assess your progress and understanding of course materials, there will be two exams and one term paper. The date and weighting of each are as follows:

Midterm Examination (October 19th) – 35%

Paper (November 23rd) – 25%

Final Exam (December 11) – 40%

All marks will be consolidated and grades assigned according to the following conventional scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make-up exams will be scheduled only when a student provides a written medical certificate explaining his/her absence. Arrangements should be made as soon as possible after missing an exam. Missed exams will otherwise receive a grade of 0.

Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions as well as essay-format questions. Multiple-choice will be based 100% on the textbook. Essay-format questions will be based 100% on in-class material. A selection of potential essay questions will be handed out in class prior to the exam and I will choose several of these questions for the exam. ID may be requested during either exam.

Missed Class: As essay questions (midterm and final) will be based on in-class lectures, it is important to get the notes from any class you may miss as soon as possible. Class notes will be provided only when a student provides a written medical certificate explaining his/her absence. As well, in-class examples, videos and questions will prove valuable regarding the midterm and final so every effort should be made to ensure all classes are attended.

Term Paper: An extremely important skill to be acquired in this course is the ability to think critically about issues in psychology, integrating research, writings, and opinions in the field with what you have learned. To demonstrate this type of analytical and integrative thinking, you will write a concise (5-6 pages) and well thought-out paper.

You are to read and then discuss (in APA paper format) a landmark study of psychiatric institutionalization by David Rosenhan called *On being sane in
insane places. Points for you to consider include, but are not limited to, psychological / psychiatric assessment, diagnosis, reliability, validity, experimenter bias, historical context, effect of deinstitutionalization, ethics, generalization of Rosenhan’s results to other settings and other historical periods.

Note: In the above class outline, you will find ** markings beside areas which are particularly relevant to Rosenhan’s study. Additional information regarding the paper will be distributed at a later date.

Papers are due in-class (by 7:30 PM) on November 23, 2004. Partly because of the many hours it will take to grade your papers, and partly because you will have 8 weeks to complete this assignment, late papers will not be accepted. I’ll repeat that, late papers (yes, even one day) will not be accepted and will therefore receive a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions. To be on the safe side, you may want to hand your paper in at the Department of Psychology early.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at

http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
  1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
  2. Improper collaboration in group work.
  3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
Please note, all students in this class are expected to respect and promote a learning environment that is **free of all forms of harassment and discrimination**

**Important Deadlines…**

- September 9 – Classes begin
- September 19 – Last day to drop a course
- October 11 – Thanksgiving
- November 7 – Last day to drop without a failing grade
- December 3 – Classes end
- December 7-21 – final exams

**Other notes:**