

# Psychology 3N03 Fall 2007

## Abnormal Psychology—Major Disorders

**Instructor:** Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt

**Office:** Room 306, Psychology Building

**Office Hours:** By appointment with me or the TAs. It has been my experience that students rarely attend pre-scheduled office hours. As such, it is a better use of time if we meet anytime during the day (by appointment) and after class on (w/out appointment).

**Contact Information:** [vailat@mcmaster.ca](mailto:vailat@mcmaster.ca). I typically answer emails within 4 days. It is my policy to answer all emails so if you have not received a reply please send your email again.

**TA Information:** This term we have 3 TAs who have all been assign a specific task for the course. We are employing this strategy to ensure that there is continuity in our delivery of material and in our responses to your requests. Read below for more details.

**Aanchal Sharma:** [sharma27@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sharma27@mcmaster.ca). Aanchal is primarily responsible for answering all your email requests. She is very familiar with the course content and so feel free to email her your questions. Aanchal will also meet students in person regarding this course.

**Shafik Sunderani:** [sundersa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sundersa@mcmaster.ca). Shafik is primarily responsible for class material. He will be attending all lectures and is available to answer questions before and after class.

**Steven Arnocky:** [arnocksa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:arnocksa@mcmaster.ca). Steve is primarily responsible for exam reviews and is available to answer questions before and after class

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course is designed to provide students with a current and comprehensive survey of psychopathology. The emphasis in this course will be on knowing: 1) the characteristics of major mental disorders (behavioral and biological features) and 2) their etiology. Note that treatment of mental disorders will not be highlighted to a large extent in this course.

**Required Text:** Davison, G.C., Neale, J.M., Blankstein, K.R., & Flett, G.L. (2002). *Abnormal Psychology* (2nd Edition). Etobicoke, ON: John Wiley and Sons Canada, Ltd.

**Class Notes and Attendance:** There has been a growing demand from university students to have lecture notes be made available to them on the web. While it is understandable that meeting such a request considerably eases the burden of taking detailed notes in class, it is nevertheless incompatible with what researchers have shown about optimizing learning. As such, it is my policy to not provide *detailed* lecture notes as they discourage class participation and encourage class absenteeism, which in turn, has been shown to be related to poorer grade performance. I strongly encourage class attendance and participation especially given that approximately 30% of lecture material will be found on the exams and not in the text book.

<b>Topics by Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading and Assignments</b>
Week of Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Introduction to course outline	Course outline
Week of Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Definition of Abnormal and History of Psychopathology	Chapter 1
Week of Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Classification & Diagnosis and Clinical Assessment	Chapter 3 and 4
Week of Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 18
Week of Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Psychophysiological Disorders	Chapter 8
<b>Mid-term Oct. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mid-term: Chapters 1, 3, 4 and 18</b>	<b>value 20%</b>
Week of Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
Week of Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mood Disorders <b>No class Friday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> ☺</b>	Chapter 10
Week of Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Personality Disorders	Chapter 13
Week of Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Schizophrenia	Chapter 11
<b>Mid-term Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mid-term: Chapters 8, 6, and 10</b>	<b>value 20%</b>
Week of Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Childhood Disorders	Chapter 15
Week of Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 14
Week of Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
<b>Mid-term Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Mid-term: Chapters 13, 11, and 15</b>	<b>value 20%</b>
Week of Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Aging and Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative but with greater emphasis placed on Chapters 14, 9 and 16.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based on 3 non-cumulative in-class multiple choice exams worth 20% of your final grade. *The final exam will be cumulative*, covering all chapters and lecture material. The format of the final exam will be multiple choice *and* short answer and will be worth 40% of your final grade. The date of the final exam will be scheduled by the registrar. For the final you are responsible for all chapters and lecture material delivered in class. Reminder that student ID will be requested in all exams. Make-up exams are not permitted unless there is a valid medical reason which is supported by a written medical certificate forwarded to your faculty. All marks will be consolidated and grades assigned according to the following conventional scheme:

90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	57-59	53-56	50-52	0-49
A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

**Policy Reminder on Academic Dishonesty:** “Academic dishonesty is not qualitatively different from other types of dishonesty. It consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means. In an academic setting this may include any number of forms such as: copying or the use of unauthorized aids in tests, examinations and laboratory reports; plagiarism, i.e., the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, unless the previously submitted work was presented as such to the instructor of the second course and has been acceptable for credit by the instructor of that course; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; and/or forging or falsifying McMaster University documents” (Author: McMaster University, Academic Integrity Officer).

Reference: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac\\_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm)

**NOTE:** All students are expected to respect and promote a learning environment that is free of all forms of harassment and discrimination.