

Psychology 3N03 Winter 2008

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 (w/out appointment).

Contact Information: 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 three TAs who have all been assigned 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.

Shafik Sunderani: sundersa@mcmaster.ca. Shafik is primarily responsible for answering all your email requests. He is very familiar with the course content and so feel free to email him your questions. Shafik will also meet students in person regarding this course (by appointment).

Steven Arnocky: arnocksa@mcmaster.ca. Steven is primarily responsible for class material. He will be attending all lectures and is available to answer questions before and after class. Steven will also meet students in person regarding this course (by appointment).

Maggie Przednowek: przednmw@mcmaster.ca Maggie is primarily responsible for exam reviews and is available to answer questions before and after class. Maggie will also meet students in person regarding this course (by appointment).

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. (2008). *Abnormal Psychology* (3rd 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.

Topics by Week	Topic	Readings
Week of January 7 th	Introduction to course outline Definition of Abnormal No class Friday January 11th ☹	Course outline Chapter 1
Week of January 14 th	History of Psychopathology Classification & Diagnosis	Chapter 1 cont. Chapter 3
Week of January 21 st	Classification & Diagnosis Clinical Assessment	Chapter 3 cont. Chapter 4
Week of January 28 th <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-term Feb 1 st	Anxiety Disorders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-Term: Chapters 1, 3 and 4	Chapter 6 Value 20%
Week of February 4 th	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 7
Week of February 11 th	Psychophysiological Disorders Health Psychology	Chapter 8
Week of February 18th	No classes Mid-term Break	No classes Mid-term Break
Week of February 25 th	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
Week of March 3 rd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-term March 7 th	Mood Disorders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-term: Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9	Chapter 10 Value 20%
Week of March 10 th	Schizophrenia	Chapter 11
Week of March 17 th	Personality Disorders No class Friday March 21st ☹	Chapter 13
Week of March 24 th	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 14
Week of March 31 st <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-term March 31 st	Childhood Disorders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-term: Chapters 10, 11, and 13	Chapter 15 Value 20%
Week of April 7 th	Childhood Disorders cont.	Chapter 15

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative but with greater emphasis placed on Chapters 14 and 15.

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 at 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

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