

Psychology 3N03E Spring 2008
Abnormal Psychology – Major Disorders

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All questions concerning the course material (textbook or lecture questions) should be addressed to your TA. Aanchal is also available to meet with students individually for assistance with understanding course content.

Course Information

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. [ITB Rm137]

Course Website: This course utilizes WebCT for posting class materials
<http://www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/index.shtml>

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.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide a general overview of abnormal psychology. The emphasis in this course will be on learning the definition of psychological disorders, the clinical procedures and assessment tools used to diagnose them, and understanding their etiology from diverse theoretical perspectives. Methods of treatment will be discussed, but not emphasized.

Evaluation: Based on **one** in-class **quiz worth 10%**, an in-class **mid-term worth 45%** and an in-class **final exam worth 45%**. The quiz will present students with a case study which they must assess and clinically diagnose based on the 5 axes of the DSM-IV-TR. The format for the midterm and final examination will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Missed tests are assigned a mark of (0). Any student who misses a test because of illness must provide valid documentation (e.g., medical note) to their faculty office and a make-up test (or its equivalent) may be offered. **Bonus:** Students have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 2% bonus through research participation credits (see link, “Research Participation” on WebCT).

Class Notes: In addition to assigned chapters in the textbook, all lecture material including videos or class discussions are testable material for exams. **Notes are provided as a courtesy to students and will be posted the day AFTER class.** Lecture notes will **not** be posted before class. Students are encouraged to take down brief notes (summaries) during class and use the lecture notes provided to fill in the details. Providing lecture notes does not facilitate student learning since there is no summarizing or integrating required, rather students simply memorize and regurgitate material provided to them, and this is not the optimal learning method. Moreover, providing lecture notes before class significantly reduces active listening and participation from students during class time.

Code of Conduct and Policy Reminders

Classroom Behaviours: Cellular phones are to be turned *off* during class. Students who require cell phones or beepers during class time for emergency reasons must inform the instructor prior to class and if permitted may leave their phone turned on with the ringer set to “vibrate” only. If a call is received, students must leave the classroom before answering it. Students are expected to listen and be respectful when other students are talking and when the instructor is talking. Students who repeatedly disrupt classroom activities by excessive chatting, cell phones ringing, etc. will be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated disruptions are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Universities’ *Student Code Policies, Procedures and Guidelines*.

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

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/policy/student.htm>).

Grading 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

Class Schedule (tentative):

Date	Topic	Readings
Week of May 5 th	Introduction to the Course Classification & Clinical Diagnosis	Syllabus, Chapter 1 (pgs 2-5) Chapters 3 & 4**
Monday May 12 th Wednesday May 14 th	Mood Disorders Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 10 Chapter 6
Monday May 19 th Wednesday May 21 st	Victoria Day – No Class Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
Monday May 26 th Wednesday May 28 th	Midterm Exam 45% Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapters 1 (pgs 2-5), 3, 6, 9, 10 Chapter 14
Monday June 2 nd Wednesday June 4 th	Schizophrenia Schizophrenia cont'd... Quiz 5% - Case Assessment	Chapter 11
Monday June 9 th Wednesday June 11 th	Dissociative & Somatoform Disorders Personality Disorders	Chapter 7 Chapter 13
Monday June 16 th Wednesday June 18 th	Childhood Disorders Final Exam 45%	Chapter 15 Chapters 7, 11, 13, 14, 15