

General Course Information (Day class): Fall of 2008-09	
Time: Tues, Wed, Fri: 12:30 - 1:20 pm	Instructor: Dr. R. B. Day
September 4th - December 1st, 2008	Office: Psych Bldg, Room 404
Room: TSH-120	Phone: 525-9140 ext. 23006
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Course Objectives

This course discusses the issues and controversies surrounding the meaning and categorization of psychological abnormality. We will also describe the major symptoms, causes (insofar as they are known), and treatments for major categories of mental disorder as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association, version IV-TR, always keeping in mind the criticisms of this categorization system.

The goals of the course include a deeper understanding of the nature, causes of, and current treatments for, psychopathology, and - more importantly - an appreciation for the tentative and incomplete nature of our understanding of mental illness.

Required Text: **Davison, Neale, Blankstein & Flett** . Abnormal Psychology, Third Canadian Edition. Wiley.

Course Outline:

The table below shows the topics we will be covering, and the order in which we will be covering them. The dates when each topic will be discussed are approximate (and probably not realistic)

Week of	Topic	Text Readings
Sept. 1 Sept. 8	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	Chapters 1 - 3
Sept. 15 Sept. 22	Disorders First Diagnosed in Childhood and Adolescence: ADHD; Autism	Chapt. 15.
Sept. 29 * Oct. 6	Anxiety Disorders: Anxiety; Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder; Phobias	Chapt. 6.
Oct. 13 Oct. 20	Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders: Conversion; Amnesia; Dissociative Identity Disorder	Chapt. 7.
Oct. 20 Oct. 27	Mood Disorders: Major Depression; Bipolar Disorders	Chapt. 10
Nov. 3 * Nov. 10	Schizophrenia	Chapt. 11
Nov. 17	Personality Disorders : Borderline; Antisocial	Chapt. 13
Nov. 24	Eating Disorders: Anorexia; Bulimia (time permitting)	Chapt. 9
Dec. 1	Classes End Monday, December 1st	
Dec. 15th	Final Examination	

Note: If pages in parentheses follow a Chapter number, that means that **only** those pages in the preceding chapter are assigned reading.



Evaluation

There will be two in-class tests, each worth 30% of your total course mark, and a final exam worth 40% of your course mark. Class tests will contain 40 multiple-choice questions, the final exam 80 questions. The dates listed below are **FINAL**. These dates are:

Friday, October 10th

Friday, November 7th

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THIS INFORMATION. Relevant information concerning the content of in-class tests (including the final examination), will be available on the Abnormal Psych 3N3 Forum as soon as possible.

Missed Work

If you miss one of the in-class tests for documented medical or compassionate reasons, you should complete a Missed Work form in the office of the Associate Dean (Studies) of your Faculty. Once your Associate Dean has accepted your reason for absence, the remaining in-class test and the final exam will be reweighted (40%, 60%, respectively) to cover the missed in-class test.

Final Grade Calculation and Adjustment

The final mark in Psychology 3N3 will be computed by applying the following formula to the percentage scores on Test1, Test2 and the Final Exam:

$$(\text{Test1} \times .30) + (\text{Test2} \times .30) + (\text{Exam} \times .40) = \text{Final Course mark}$$

Apart from excused absences from an in-class test, every student will be assessed using the weighting formula shown above - **with one exception:**

In assigning final letter grades for the course I look at the pattern of performance over the two in-class tests and the final exam. If the overall average, as calculated by the formula above, is on the borderline of the next higher letter grade (e.g. 49%, 66%, or 84%) and if the marks on both the final exam and one in-class test are at the next higher level (e.g., D-, C+, A), then I will assign the next higher letter grade.

Apart from this one final adjustment, **final course grades in Psych 3N3 are not raised unless they have been calculated incorrectly.**

Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (“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 a 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. Copying or using unauthorized aids on tests and examinations.
2. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
3. Improper collaboration in group work.

The Final Course Mark will be translated into a letter grade according to the following table of equivalence:

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

