

Psychology 3N03E Spring 2009
Abnormal Psychology – Major Disorders

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. J. L. Miller
Office: Chedoke Hospital, Central Building, Room 310
Office Hours: By appointment or before and after class
Phone: 905-521-2100 ext: 74361
Email: millej6@mcmaster.ca

Course Information

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. [BSB Rm135]

Course Website:

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/undergraduate/courses.html#summer>

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: Midterm examination (50%) and Final examination (50%). In addition to assigned chapters in the textbook, all lecture material (which includes videos, handouts, lecture notes and class discussions) are testable material for exams. The format for the midterm and final examination will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Both exams will be held in our classroom (BSB 135) during regular class hours. The Final Exam is not cumulative. Missed exams without appropriate documentation are assigned a mark of (0). Information regarding documentation required for missed exams should be directed to your faculty office. Only students who have been excused by their faculty for missed work will have the opportunity to complete a make-up exam (or its equivalent).

Class Notes: Lecture notes will be made available to students; however, notes will be posted AFTER the lecture. 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: No recording devices are to be used without permission from the instructor. 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. Students are responsible for reading the Universities’ Policy on Student Code of Conduct www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/StudentCode.pdf

Course Policies: Final marks may be adjusted up or down on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and or the student’s overall performance in the course.

Details of the course requirements may change. If it becomes necessary to make changes to some part of the course during the term, reasonable notice and communication will be provided and any updates will be discussed in class and posted on the class web page. **Students should check the course website regularly for announcements.**

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
May 5 th	Introduction to the Course	Course Syllabus, Chapters 1-2
May 7 th	Classification and Diagnosis	Chapter 3
May 12 th	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 15
May 14 th	Disorders of Childhood cont'd...	Chapter 15 Chapter 4 (pgs 115-117 Family Assessment)
May 19 th	Mood Disorders	Chapter 10 Chapter 4 (pgs 118-123 Biological Assessment)
May 21 st	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
May 26th	Midterm Exam	All assigned readings and lecture materials from May 5th to May 21st inclusive.
May 28 th	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
June 2 nd	Schizophrenia	Chapter 11
June 4 th	Schizophrenia cont'd...	Chapter 11
June 9 th	Personality Disorders	Chapter 13
June 11 th	Personality Disorders cont'd...	Chapter 13
June 16 th	Sexual Disorders	Chapter 14
June 18th	Final Exam	All assigned readings and lecture materials from May 28th to June 16th inclusive.