

University of Minnesota
Psy3604: Section 001
Introduction to Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2009, 3 Credits

Class Specifics

Time: Monday and Wednesday 12:45-2:00

Location: Rapson 56

Instructor: Bonnie Klimes-Dougan, Ph.D.

Contact: email klimes@umn.edu

Office Hours: I am available after class and am otherwise available with a prior appointment (N414 Elliot Hall).

Teaching Assistants:

Mike Natali nata0017@umn.edu

Office Hours: Thur 1:00 to 2:00 at N489 Elliot Hall

Kyle Kurowski kurow006@umn.edu

Office Hours: Wed 2:00 to 3:00 at N317 Elliot Hall

Course Description

This course will introduce students to a multidimensional approach to conceptualizing various types of psychological disorders. During this course, students will be responsible for learning basic descriptive psychopathology as described in the DSM-IV-TR as well as descriptive information including prevalence rates, ages of onset, and cultural differences. An introductory overview to some of the causes and treatments of psychopathology will be provided to the extent that it helps students understand the various mental disorders. A prerequisite for this course is PSY 1001.

Required Textbook

Barlow, D.H., & Durand, V.M (2009) *Abnormal Psychology (5th Ed.)*

Course Website

Psy3604-001 uses a Moodle website which can be accessed through

www.psych.umn.edu/courses/

or www.myu.umn.edu.

Course Assignments

Exams

There will be four, largely noncumulative exams throughout the semester made up of multiple-choice questions, short essays, and case studies. Each exam is worth 50 points (20% of your grade). Each exam will include material covered up to the date of that exam, including readings, lectures, and videos reviewed in class and will focus on the material presented during that portion of the course. Students will be responsible for integrating concepts learned throughout the course and be able to differentiate between various disorders. One of the best strategies to study for exams is to

emphasize the overlap between the in-class presentations and required readings.

Research Paper

Students will be responsible for writing a 5-7, double-spaced research paper on a topic pertaining to abnormal psychology. Students will describe a question they have about a topic in abnormal psychology and explain the importance of answering this question. Students will then identify, summarize, and critique 4-5 research articles that address this question. The research papers should include a conclusion that integrates the results of these articles and a discussion of the implications and limitations of the research. References are required (APA format is preferred). Late papers will be docked 5% per day late.

Extra Credit

Students can earn up to 10 points of extra credit by participation in the REP program. Participation provides 1 point of extra credit for every 30 minutes of volunteer efforts in a research study. Also, students can earn 5 points extra credit for handing in their paper by 11.18.09.

Summary of Credit Opportunities

Research Paper 50 points

Exams 1, 50 points

Exam 2, 50 points

Exam 3, 50 points

Exam 4, 50 points

Grading Scale

A 93-100%

A- 90-92%

B+ 87-89%

B 83-86%

B- 80-82%

C+ 77-79%

C 73-76%

C- 70-72%

D+ 67-69%

D 63-66%

D- 60-62%

F <60%

University Grading Standards

A – achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements

B – achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements

C – achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect

D – achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements

S – achievement that is satisfactory (in this course, equivalent to a C grade or better).

F/N – represents failure or no credit, and signifies that work was either 1) completed, but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit, or 2) not completed, with no agreement between the instructors and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

I (Incomplete) – assigned at the discretion of the instructors when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the course requirements on time. An incomplete requires a written agreement between the instructor and the student.

Course Schedule

Course Overview

09.09.09

Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context

09.14.09

Chapter 2: An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology

09.16.09

Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

09.21.09

09.23.09

Chapter 4: Research Methods

09.28.09

Exam 1

09.30.09

Chapter 5: Anxiety Disorders

10.05.09

10.07.09

Chapter 6: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders

10.12.09

Chapter 7: Mood Disorders and Suicide

10.14.09

10.19.09

10.21.09

Chapter 8: Eating and Sleep Disorders

10.26.09

10.28.09

Exam 2
11.02.09

Chapter 9: Physical Disorders and Health Psychology
11.04.09

Chapter 10: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
11.09.09

Chapter 11: Substance-Related and Impulse-Control Disorders
11.11.09
11.16.09

Chapter 12: Personality Disorders
11.18.09

Exam 3
11.23.09

Chapter 13: Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
11.25.09
11.30.09

Chapter 14: Developmental Disorders
12.02.09
12.07.09

Paper Due
12.09.09 (at the beginning of class)

Chapter 15: Cognitive Disorders
12.09.09

Chapter 16: Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues
12.14.09

Exam 4
12.16.09

Attendance and Participation

Although there is no formal class attendance policy, it is expected that you regularly attend class in order to do well in this course. While some of the lecture content will overlap with the textbook, exams will draw upon class lectures, in addition to the textbook and supplemental readings. If you cannot avoid missing a class meeting, only lecture slides will be available. You will need to obtain notes from a classmate of the material missed. The instructor will not provide copies of lecture notes regardless of the reason for

missing class. This decision conforms to university policy. The purpose of this course is to encourage you to think critically about how we conceptualize different types of psychopathology. In order to achieve this goal, we want you to take an active role in your education. All students in this class are expected to think and participate actively during class discussion and class exercises.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined by the Committee on Student Academic Affairs as any act that violates the rights of other students with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentations of a student's own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on examinations or assignments, plagiarizing, etc. Students caught cheating on an exam will receive a zero for that exam. Academic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for a course shall be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course and referral to the Scholastic Conduct Committee.

Policy for Missed Exams

Students are expected to take exams on the date scheduled in the syllabus. There are few acceptable reasons for missing an exam. In most circumstances, arrangements to take a missed exam MUST be made prior to the exam date and under almost all circumstances must be made up within a week of the exam date. You will need to schedule the exam with one of the TAs at a time they are available.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class to receive full credit unless an alternative arrangement has been approved by the instructor prior to the start of class. Late assignments will be docked 5% per day late.

Difficulties, Incompletes, and Withdrawing from the course

Failing assignments or exams will NOT be considered sufficient cause to drop this course. If you choose to withdraw, do so before the date on which the instructor's signature is required (see the University Course Schedule for this deadline). Incompletes ("I" grades), followed by retaking the course during another term to finish, will NOT be given. If you are experiencing difficulties in the course, please talk to the instructor as soon as you realize it, and, if at all possible, BEFORE you get a poor score back on your assignments. Overall, the earlier you share with me your concerns, the more likely I will be able to help you.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

We all learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that hinder your ability to learn up to your potential in this course, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester. If these factors are recognized disabilities, under the ADA, please provide the instructor with appropriate notification. Specifically, you will need

to present the instructor with a letter from the Office of Disability Services, McNamara Alumni Center Suite 230). If you do not already have contacts there, you should call them at (612) 626-1333 as soon as possible <http://disserv.stu.umn.edu/>. If these factors fall outside official categories, you should talk to the instructor in person as soon as possible.

Diversity of Student Body

You are expected to listen to and interact with each other in a respectful manner. Students in this class are quite diverse; they will have different values, beliefs, and opinions. Students are expected to maintain open minds to the differences among themselves. Students may argue with others who hold opinions different from their own, but must maintain respect for all students at all times.

Sexual Harassment

University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined in the University Policy Statement adopted on December 11, 1998. Complaints about sexual harassment should be reported to the University Office of Equal Opportunity, 419 Morrill Hall, East Bank. For more information, please refer to the following webpage:
<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/humanresources/SexHarassment.html>.

Additional Resources for Students

Student Writing Support

Offers free one-to-one writing assistance to undergraduate and graduate students, with appointments up to 45 minutes. Nonnative speaker specialists are available. 306b Lind Hall and satellite locations varying by semester (612.625.1893) For more information and links to additional writing resources see <http://writing.umn.edu> and <http://writing.umn.edu/sws/hours.htm>.

Student Writing Guide

A guidebook providing student writer with detailed, step-by-step guidance through the writing process and lists numerous writer resources. Available on the web in pdf at: <http://writing.umn.edu/docs/sws/swgpdf.pdf> or at the Center for Writing, 207a Lind Hall, (612.626.7579), writing@umn.edu.

Online Writing Center

A service offering writing consultations via e-mail and online resources for students writers and their instructors. Available for graduate and undergraduate students. <http://www.owc.umn.edu>.

General College Writing Center

This service offers one-to-one tutoring on a walk-in basis or by appointment. Available to students outside of GC, including graduate students, on a limited

basis. Academic Resource Center, 11 Appleby Hall (612.624.0342)
<http://www.gen.umn.edu/resources/arc/writing/>.

Non-Native Speakers

Non-Native Speakers (NNS) in need of assistance or guidance with writing concerns can contact Sheryl Holt, the Coordinator for Non-Native Speakers (holtx001@tc.umn.edu). NNS student can also find answers to their writing-related questions on the Composition Program's NNS link.

337 Nolte Center (612.624.4524)

http://composition.cla.umn.edu/student_web/

Student Writing Support also has NNS specialists to help you with your writing: <http://writing.umn.edu>.

University of Minnesota Counseling Program

UCCS Counseling program helps students with their concerns and offers an opportunity to talk with an experienced counselor who can help students select and achieve goals for personal and career development. The center offers three types of counseling: personal counseling, academic counseling and career counseling. The Learning and Academic Skills Center offers class, workshop, and individual assistance aimed at helping students achieve academic goals.

109 Eddy Hall (612.624.3323)

<http://www.uccs.umn.edu/counsel>