

Southern Methodist University
Main Campus
May Term 2017 Course

Dedman College
Psychology 2351
Abnormal Psychology
Thurs, May 18, 2017 – Friday, June 2, 2017
9:30-12:00 / 1:00-3:00
Room to be determined

Instructor: Mary O'Boyle, J.D., Ph.D.

Contact: moboyle@smu.edu

Office hours by appointment

Office: Arranged by appointment moboyle@smu.edu

Required Text: Hooley, J.M., Butcher, J.N., Knock, M.K., & Mineka, S. (2017). *Abnormal Psychology*, 17th Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, Inc.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of abnormal psychology. We will discuss major forms of psychological disorders, including phenomenology (the experience of the individual experiencing the disorder), etiology (the possible causes of the disorder), and contemporary approaches to treatment.

We will explore abnormal behavior from various theoretical perspectives including psychological, biological, and socio-cultural approaches. Emphasis will be placed on integrative and multidimensional approaches to understanding psychological disorders and controversial topics and current trends in the study of abnormal psychology. Abnormal psychology is a fascinating topic and I think you will enjoy the course.

Course Objectives

1. To familiarize students with established and emerging scientific methods for the descriptions, conceptualization, classification, assessment and diagnosis of major forms of adult mental disorders.
2. To familiarize students with the nature and prevalence of these disorders, and to acquaint students with contemporary, evidence-based approaches of treating psychological disorders.
3. To stimulate critical and integrative thinking about psychological phenomena, including the impact of multiple sources of causality and cultural diversity.

Specific learning outcomes for individuals taking this course include:

- On class exams, students will be able to identify, describe, and differentiate major psychological disorders. Students will also demonstrate proficiency in applying the system of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Fifth Edition (DSM-5) to the diagnosis of psychological disorders.
- Also on class exams, students will be able to discuss the multiple causes of psychopathology as viewed from a number of different theoretical perspectives and identify intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders.

- Class discussion and exams will include questions about **human diversity**. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social/interpersonal factors that may contribute to psychopathology, disparities in the diagnosis of mental illness, and how the field is moving forward in its consideration of diversity issues.
- In class discussion and exercises, students will articulate the role of research in understanding abnormal behavior and be able to describe how research has advanced both pharmacological and behavioral intervention techniques.

Course Requirements and Format

Class time will be spent primarily in lectures and discussion. You are required to read all assigned material **prior** to the class for which it is assigned. Class lecture and activities will be based on the assumption that you have read all of the assigned material. Lectures will cover topics from the readings in greater depth, as well as material not found in the readings. A schedule of assigned readings is provided in the Course Outline on pages 3-4 of this syllabus.

Attendance

Attendance will be monitored via sign-in sheets and counts towards your participation grade. Due to the large amount of information that will be covered in this course, exams will include information from both the text and lectures. If you must miss a lecture for whatever reason, you should get notes from at least one, preferably two, of your colleagues. *I will **not** provide summaries of lecture materials for absent students.* If I find that a student is frequently absent from class, stops attending class, or has a period of non-attendance, I will contact the student's records office or access the Caring Community Connections website to notify the Dean of Student Life of non-attendance.

Course Evaluation

There are 3 components to your evaluation for the course:

1. **Exams:** There will be three scheduled exams and a final exam. Exams 1-3 will cover material from the respective part of the course, and the final exam will be cumulative for the entire course, but with an emphasis on the material following Exam 3. Again, exams will cover information provided in both the textbook and lectures, so it is important that you complete the required reading and attend class on a regular basis. Exams 1-3 will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and will count for 100 points each. The final exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions and will count for 200 points.

A note about make-up exams: Make-up exams are not normally given in this course. The only circumstances in which a make-up exam will be given are: 1) an official University sponsored event that requires you to be off campus during the regularly schedule examination time; 2) a medical emergency prevents you from attending class; 3) a family emergency prevents you from attending class; 4) jury duty, military service, a religious observance, or a similar obligation prevents you from attending class. If you are going to miss an exam for any of the above reasons, you **must** contact me **before** the exam, and you must provide written documentation of the event or emergency in order to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam without a legitimate reason listed above, you will receive a zero on that exam – **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Make-up exams will be scheduled at my discretion and will consist of essay questions.

2. **Paper Assignment:** The purpose of this assignment is to use the knowledge you learned in the course to make a clinical diagnosis. You are assigned to watch a popular movie (more information to come). The paper is worth 100 points.

- 3. Participation:** Due to the compressed nature of a May term, course participation will be based on attendance.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the percentage of total points accumulated from exams, paper, and participation.

Possible Points per Assignment		Letter Grades	
	Points	Letter	Percentage
Exam 1	100	A	93-100
Exam 2	100	A-	90-92
Exam 3	100	B+	87-89
Participation	100	B	83-86
Paper	100	B-	80-82
Final Exam	200	C+	77-79
Total	700	C	73-76
		C-	70-72
		D+	67-69
		D	63-66
		D-	60-62
		F	59 or lower

Grades will be posted on the course Blackboard website.

Course Policies

Electronic Devices: Use of laptops, cell phones, text messaging, iPods, and other electronic devices not related to class material is not allowed during class. Make sure that cell phones are turned off or placed on silent during class. Do not place cell phones on vibrate as this is often audible and disruptive to other students. Use of electronic devices during class for non-approved reasons will result in loss of points from your participation grade.

Changes to Syllabus: The syllabus may change to accommodate the needs of the class and/or the instructor. You are responsible for all such changes announced in class, via email, and/or sent out on Blackboard.

Grade Disputes: See "University Policies" section.

Course Outline

On the morning of exams, the morning class will be 9:30-10:30 exam, and then 11:00-12:00 lecture.

Before the first day of class, please read Chapter 1, 2, 3, and 17. Although there will not be a formal lecture on Chapter 17, contemporary and legal issues will be discussed in the lectures, and you will be responsible for the material.

Thursday, May 18

Morning – Course overview / Historical and contemporary views of abnormal behavior

Syllabus – Chapter 1 / Chapter 2

Afternoon – Causal factors and Viewpoints - Chapter 3

Friday, May 19

Morning – Finish Chapter 3 - Begin Chapter 4

Afternoon – Clinical assessment and diagnosis - Chapter 4 / Review

Monday, May 22

Morning – **Exam** / Stress Chapter 4

Afternoon – Finish Stress, begin Anxiety disorders – Chapter 6

Tuesday, May 23

Morning – Anxiety disorders

Afternoon – Obsessive compulsive disorders – Chapter 6

Wednesday, May 24

Morning – Mood disorders and suicide – Chapter 7

Afternoon – Mood disorders and suicide – Chapter 7 / Review

Thursday, May 25

Morning – **Exam** / Somatic and dissociative disorders – Chapter 8

Afternoon – Eating disorders

Friday, May 26

Morning – Personality disorders – Chapter 7 / **Paper due**

Afternoon – Personality disorders / Review

Tuesday, May 30

Morning – **Exam** / Substance related disorders – Chapter 11

Afternoon – Schizophrenia – Chapter 13

Wednesday, May 31

Morning – Schizophrenia

Afternoon – Psychological treatment

Thursday, June 1

Morning – Review

Afternoon – **Final Exam**

Review Sessions

Review sessions will be held in class prior to each exam. I will not be preparing formal content. Instead, I encourage you to come prepared with questions (e.g., questions about the exam format; questions about content that isn't clear from lecture or your text). Dates for review sessions are listed on the syllabus.

University Policies

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will be dealt with according to the University's Honor Code. As stated by the Honor Council, "Permitting others to prepare their work, using published or unpublished summaries as a substitute for studying required materials, or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in preparation of work to be submitted are directly contrary to the honest process of learning." A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this please see the instructor immediately.

Grade Disputes: If you wish to dispute the grade assigned on an exam or writing assignment, your dispute must be presented to the instructor IN WRITING within one week after the exam or assignment has been returned. You must include a specific rationale for why you are disputing the grade. "I think I deserve a better grade" does not constitute a rationale.

Classroom Courtesy

Please be respectful of your peers during class. **Please TURN OFF your cell phone and do not go online to check your email or Facebook during class unless I specifically ask everyone to turn on a device to use the Poll Everywhere software.** If you are caught using your computer or cell phone for non-class activities, you may be asked to leave. Please see me to discuss special circumstances related to taking notes on a computer vs. hand writing notes.

SMU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

Please also note that mental disorders touch almost everyone in some capacity, and therefore we may be discussing issues and disorders personally relevant to class members. However, class discussion is not an appropriate forum to discuss personal psychological issues. Personal counseling services are available on campus at SMU's Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). CAPS is located on the second floor of the Memorial Health Center, and the telephone number is 214-768-2277.

SMU Prohibits Possession of Weapons (Either Openly or in a Concealed Manner) on Campus

In accordance with the Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the "campus carry" law, following consultation with the entire University community SMU determined to remain a weapons-free campus. Specifically, SMU prohibits possession of weapons (either openly or in a concealed manner) on campus. For more information, please see http://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/Weapons_Policy

Student Information Sheet

Please complete the following form and return to me by May 20, 2017

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Year: _____

Major: _____

Minor (if applicable): _____

Please list any previous psychology courses you have taken. (Not a prerequisite for this course)

Please sign below to indicate that you have reviewed the syllabus and understand the class policies (in particular, make sure you understand the policy regarding late assignments, missing class, and rescheduling exams:

Signature

Date

Perspectives at the beginning of the course
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Name: _____ Student ID: _____

What does mental illness mean to you?

What does “abnormal” mean to you?