

**Rutgers University**  
**Abnormal Psychology**  
**PSY 340 Section 7**  
**Syllabus – Fall 2015**

**Course:** Abnormal Psychology, Credit Hours: 3

**When:** MW 5:00PM - 6:20PM

**Where:** Lucy Stone Hall Auditorium

**Instructor:** Laura Carmignani, Ph.D.

**Email:** laura.carmignani@rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:00PM, Tillett Hall Room 329

**Course Materials:**

- Durand/Barlow Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- Related Aplia course material

**Course Description:** This course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about and understand abnormal behavior through the lens of psychopathology. Students will learn how to define and analyze psychological disorders, describe psychological dysfunction, distress, and atypical cultural responses. This course will be organized according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders -5<sup>th</sup> Edition (DSM-5). We will use an integrated approach when discussing and learning about psychological disorders in that we will examine the interaction between cultural, social, biological, and developmental factors. This course will allow students to become familiar with research methods and ethical considerations relevant to the study of abnormal behavior. We will examine and apply psychological theory and findings from empirical studies when examining psychopathology.

**Course Objectives:**

- Define and analyze abnormal behavior and describe psychopathology in relation to cultural, social, biological, and developmental factors.
- Demonstrate understanding of assessment, etiology, symptoms, and treatments of the major psychological disorders in the DSM-5.
- Demonstrate familiarity with research methods and ethical considerations appropriate for the study of psychopathology.
- Identify and apply major psychological theories and findings from empirical studies to the explanation of psychopathology.
- Enhance writing skills in conjunction with APA format.

**Teaching Philosophy:** As open discussion and dialogue are encouraged in this course, students should feel free to express their opinion, ask questions, and reflect on course material in an open and honest manner. My aim is to foster and promote a classroom environment that is non-judgmental, engaging, and accepting of differences. I believe in being flexible and tailoring the course material to the unique needs of the class. As such this syllabus is subject to change, with appropriate notice, throughout the semester.

**Classroom Decorum:** Students are expected to maintain a level of professional respect during class. This means arriving on time and prepared, turning off all electronic devices, and refraining from side conversations.

**Academic Honor Code:** Students are expected to uphold the Academic Integrity Policy published by Rutgers. This policy is based on the premise that students must 1. Acknowledge and cite all use of ideas, results or words or others; 2. Acknowledge all contributions of work; 3. Submit work that is his/her own without the aid of impermissible materials or collaboration 4. Obtain data and results ethically and report with accuracy 5. Treat all students in a manner that preserves their integrity 6. Uphold the ethical and professional code in accord with the profession you pursue. It is imperative that all students abide by the Academic Integrity Policy to maintain the integrity of the University community.  
(Paraphrased from <http://academicintegrityu.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>)

**Special Considerations for Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all qualified persons should have equal opportunity and access to education, regardless of the presence of any disabling conditions. If you have a documented disability and need special permissions, please contact the Office of Disability Services for Students, Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Suite A 145, Piscataway, NJ 08345 (Phone: 848-445-6809) and notify me during the first week of class. I will do whatever I can to accommodate your legitimate needs. All information and documentation of disability is strictly confidential.

**Medical, Mental Health, and Personal Emergencies:** If you miss multiple classes, assignments, or exams due to a medical or personal emergency, please discuss your situation with me as soon as possible. I may ask that you supply me with a note from the emergency dean. Do not wait until the end of the semester or until the problem has been resolved to contact me.

### **Course Requirements**

**Attendance:** Class attendance is expected in order to succeed in this course. You may be asked to sign in at the start of each class session. If you must miss a class it is your responsibility to notify me in advance and to get all notes and material from a peer.

**Participation:** Class participation is strongly encouraged as this enhances the classroom environment and promotes analytical thinking. It is expected that all students will remain respectful of other's opinions and view points during class discussions.

**Readings:** Students are expected to complete readings prior to each class session. You may be given supplemental readings throughout the course.

**Exams/Final Exam:** This course will consist of 2 exams and one cumulative final exam for a total of 3 exams over the course of the semester. Exams will cover content covered during the lectures, in the textbook, on Aplia, and supplemental readings. Exam 1 and 2 will not be cumulative but will draw upon previously covered material. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. If you cannot complete an exam on its given date and time, please contact me via e-mail immediately. Missed exams will result in a zero unless

you have a legitimate, documented reason. This includes illness or family emergency. In these situations, you may make up the exam you missed within one week of its scheduled date during my of the TA's office hours.

**Grading:** I will take an average of your problem set scores completed throughout the semester as the fourth exam score in this course. I will drop your lowest problem set score prior to taking this average. Each exam (average of problem sets, minus the lowest score, exam 1, exam 2, final exam) will be weighed equally (25%) toward your final grade.

### Course Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
9/2/15	Introduction, Syllabus	Review syllabus, obtain appropriate course materials (book, electronic resources)
9/8/15 (Tuesday)	Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Chapter 1
9/9/15	An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Chapter 2 Aplia Problem Set: Chapter 2 (An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology) Available 9/9-9/16
9/14/15	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	Chapter 3
9/16/15	Research Methods	Chapter 4
9/21/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Methods</li> <li>• Anxiety, Trauma, Stress-related and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Part 1</li> </ul>	Chapters 4 and 5
9/23/15	Anxiety, Trauma, Stress-related and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Part 2	Chapter 5 Aplia Problem Set: Chapter 5 (Anxiety, Trauma, Stress-related and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders) Available 9/23-9/30
9/28/15	Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders, Dissociative Disorder, Part 1	Chapter 6
9/30/15	Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders, Dissociative Disorder, Part 2	Chapter 6
10/5/15	Mood Disorders and Suicide, Part 1	Chapter 7
10/7/15	Mood Disorders and Suicide, Part 2	Chapter 7 Aplia Problem Set: Chapter 7

		(Mood Disorders and Suicide) Available 10/7-10/14
10/12/15	Exam 1 Review	Chapters 1-7
10/14/15	<b>Exam 1</b>	
10/19/15	Eating and Sleep-Wake Disorders	Chapter 8
10/21/15	Physical Disorder and Health Psychology	Chapter 9
10/26/15	Sexual Dysfunction, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria, Part 1	Chapter 10
10/28/15	Sexual Dysfunction, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria, Part 2	Chapter 10
11/2/15	Substance Related, Addictive and Impulse Control Disorders	Chapter 11 Aplia Problem Set: Chapter 11 (Substance Related, Addictive and Impulse Control Disorders) Available 11/2-11/9
11/4/15	Personality Disorders, Part 1	Chapter 12
11/9/15	Personality Disorders, Part 2	Chapter 12
11/11/15	Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders, Part 1	Chapter 13
11/16/15	Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders, Part 2	Chapter 13 Aplia Problem Set: Chapter 13 (Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders) Available 11/16-11/23
11/18/15	Exam 2 Review	Chapters 8-13
11/23/15	<b>Exam 2</b>	
11/30/15	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Chapter 14
12/2/15	Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 15
12/7/15	Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues, Part 1	Chapter 16
12/9/15	Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues, Part 2	Chapter 16
12/14/15	Final Exam Review	Chapters 1-16
12/21/15 4:00-7:00pm	<b>Final Exam</b>	

***NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, WITH PROPER NOTICE, THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER***