

Rutgers University
Course Syllabus
Abnormal Psychology
01: 830:340 - Fall 2015

Date & Time: Monday and Wednesday – 1:40-3:00 pm
Location: Tillett bldg. room 232 Livingston Campus
Instructor: Stevie M. McKenna MA
E-Mail: steviemc@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 pm Livingston campus Tillett #333

Course Objectives

This course will introduce you to the fascinating study of abnormal behavior. We will examine such factors as: cultural norms, situational circumstances, cognitive, biological, social variables and how they interact to produce aberrant behavior.

.We will compare various current theories of the development of behavioral and cognitive disorders as defined by the *Diagnostic Statistical Manual V* (DSM-V) as well as the efficacy of various treatment modalities including pharmacological interventions. As a result, you will be better able to recognize and define abnormal behavior from behavior that is considered to be within the normal range.

Required Texts:

Abnormal Psychology 13e Kring (THIS IS AN ONLINE TEXT BOOK)
ISBN – 978 111 899 3576
WileyPLUS reg card (course materials are being offered digitally only) Just log on to
Wileyplus.com

Net price: \$95.50

Date	Topics	Assigned Chapters
Sept. 2	Getting acquainted / course requirements (syllabus) Introduction and Historical Overview	Chapter 1
	Representative from CAPS	
Sept. 7 M	Labor Day – NO CLASS – Please note - we will be meeting Tues. instead.	
Sept. 8 Tues.	Current Paradigms in Psychopathology	Chapter 2
Sept. 14 M	Current Paradigms in Psychopathology continued	Chapter 2
Sept. 16	Diagnosis and Assessment	Chapter 3
Sept. 21 M	Diagnosis and Assessment continued	Chapter 3
Sept. 23	Research Methods in Psychopathology	Chapter 4
Sept. 28 M	Mood Disorders	Chapter 5
Sept. 30	Review for EXAM I (Chapters 1,2,3)	
Oct. 5 M	Review for EXAM I (Chapters 4,5)	
Oct. 7	EXAM I	
Oct. 12 M	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
Oct. 14	Anxiety Disorders <i>Guest Speaker</i>	Chapter 6
Oct. 19 M	Obsessive Compulsive Related – Trauma Related Disorders	Chapter 7
Oct. 21	Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom Related Disorders DVD	Chapter 8
Oct. 26 M	Schizophrenia	Chapter 9
Oct. 26 M	Substance Use Disorder <i>Guest Speaker</i>	Chapter 10
Oct. 28	Substance Use Disorder continued	

Nov. 2M	Review for EXAM II (Chapters 6,7,8)	
Nov. 4	Review for EXAM II (Chapters 9, 10)	
Nov. 9M	EXAM II	
Nov. 11	Eating Disorders – DVD	Chapter 11
Nov. 16M	Eating Disorders continued	Chapter 12
Nov. 18	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 13
Nov. 23M	Disorders of Childhood continued DVD - Mozart and the Whale	Chapter 13
Nov. 25	No class – Thanksgiving break	
Nov.30M	Late Life and Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 14
Dec. 2	Personality Disorders	Chapter 15
Dec. 7M	Legal and Ethical Issues discussion	Chapter 16
Dec. 9	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 16
Dec. 14	Reading day – No Class	
Dec. 15 – 22	Exam week - FINAL EXAM - December 18th 8:00 am– 11:00 am	

Grading: Your course grade will be based on 100 points valued as follows:

First Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Midterm Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Final Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Paper	10 Possible Points (10%)

In class lecture notes:

- Lecture (skeleton) notes will be provided for you on the **Sakai** website (resource section). These notes are not intended to be the only source of information for the exams.
- Please note that you will need your online text book for this course. Since DVDs will be shown periodically during the course, so you will **be expected to take adequate notes as some material from the dvds will appear on the exams.**

- *Some* dvds that will be shown will not be available through the media center, so attendance is important. **If you are not able to attend class on the day of the dvd, you will need to obtain notes from another student via chat room.**

Study guides: Study guides for each exam will be provided and posted on the **Sakai** website (resource section). These guides are to be used to prepare for each exam. Questions on the exams will, but not necessarily exclusively, reflect information given on the study guides.

Term paper (worth up to 10pt)

Your term paper should explore a recognized DSM-V disorder. Some disorders that appear in childhood should be avoided as this course's focus is on **adulthood** psychopathology. *See list.*

****Please post your paper via Assignments section of Sakai class site.**

Your paper should address the following:

A definitive clinical picture of the disorder you are researching. (Short description). Each of the following bulleted components are 1 point each. You should include the following in 1 to 2 paragraphs each:

- **Symptom picture** – describe the symptoms commonly seen in the disorder you have chosen to research.
- **Prevalence rates** – prevalence rates in the US and world.
- **Cultural variables** – You should list what world cultures your disorder is found in and if it presents with the same symptom picture as seen in the US. You should also include subcultures of the US (e.g. African American, Native American, Hispanic).
- **Age of onset and Gender features** - What is the average age when symptoms appear that lead to a diagnosis? **For Gender features:** ex. Bipolar is equally common among men and women, major depression diagnosed 2X more in women than in men.
- **Etiology** - Describe the biology and genetics behind the disorder you are researching. E.g. What neurotransmitter systems and subcortical structures of the brain are affected in the disorder you are researching. Is it mainly due to biology e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar, or genetic, or is it trauma based or a combination? Is this highly genetic? Does it run in families such as with depression?
- **Course** - Will it be a lifelong chronic course e.g. schizophrenia or relatively short episodes e.g. depression?)
- **Prognosis:** What is the end result you expect to see with regard to the symptom picture? E.g. What would the symptom picture look like when the person is 70. E.g. Would the

client still have to be on medication? Would they still exhibit the symptoms of the disorder or would most of the symptoms abate?

- **Current treatment** - What is the most effective treatment for your chosen disorder? Explain the main underlying theory of the treatment most used.
- **A differential diagnosis** – You should compare and contrast another disorder which is similar and how to differentiate it from the main disorder you have chosen to research. In what ways is it similar and in what ways is it dissimilar? E.g. major depression vs Persistent Depressive Disorder.
- **APA style** – for title page and reference pages only.

Must be double spaced (12pt type and Times New Roman)

Must have **within text** citations. **THIS IS A MUST**

Articles, the DSM-V, books, and online sources are fine (org more preferable but .com is fine with discretion). **Try to use empirical sources when possible. E.g. Journal of Abnormal Psychology**

NO WIKAPEDIA.

***** Do not use the text book or myself as an instructor as a source.**

*****No longer than 10 pages including title and reference pages.**

DUE Nov. 23 - late papers will be docked 1 pt for every day it is late.

***** *Minimum page length 7 pages including the title and reference pages.***

Note: Pay particular attention to the genetic/biological in the etiology section. Most disorders have a strong biological component.

List of Acceptable Disorders for Paper: Choose any one disorder under the heading. DO NOT ATTEMPT A CATEGORY.

- **Anxiety disorders**
 - Panic attacks
 - Panic disorder
 - Agoraphobia
 - Specific phobia
 - Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD)
 - Social phobia
 - Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

- Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- Body Dysmorphic disorder (BDD)
- Hoarding Disorder
- Excoriation (skin picking)
- Trichotillomania (hair pulling)

Comment [Sm1]:

- **Personality disorders**

- **Cluster A**
 - Paranoid
 - Schizoid
 - Schizotypal
- **Cluster B**
 - Antisocial
 - Borderline
 - Histrionic
 - Narcissistic (currently not included in the DSM-V)
- **Cluster C**
 - Avoidant
 - Dependent
 - Obsessive Compulsive

- **Mood disorders**

- Major Depression
- Persistent Depressive Disorder (previously known as Dysthymia)
- Double depression
- Seasonal Affective disorder (SAD)
- Bipolar I
- Bipolar II
- Cyclothymia
- Rapid Cycling Bipolar

- **Psychotic Disorders**

- Schizophrenia
- Schizophreniaform
- Schizoaffective disorder
- Schizotypal disorder
- Delusional disorder
- Brief Psychotic Disorder

- **Intellectual disability (formerly called mental retardation MR)**

- Fragile X
- Down syndrome

Please focus on the adult presentation of the disorder not child presentation.

- **Eating disorders**

- Binge eating disorder (BED)
- Anorexia nervosa (include both subtypes)
- Bulimia nervosa (include both subtypes)

- **Substance abuse disorders**

Choose any type of addictive substance such as cocaine, alcohol, heroin etc.

- Abuse
- Dependence
- Gambling disorder

- **Cognitive disorders**

- Delirium
- Dementia
 - Alzheimer's Type
 - Vascular Dementia

- **Dissociative Disorders**

- Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder)
- Dissociative Fugue
- Dissociative amnesia

- **Somataform disorders**

- Conversion disorder
- Hypochondriasis
- Somatization disorder
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- **Sexual disorders**

- Gender Dysphoria disorder
- Paraphilic disorders

Attendance

In-class participation is critical and expected. Regular communication with the professor and your fellow classmates is encouraged as well as being prepared to provide needed input on critical psychological issues. *You are responsible for any missed class presentation material.* Please ask fellow students via chat room for any information you may have missed due to absence from class. *****Doctors notes** or other **specific documentation** are necessary for missing an exam and taking the make-up. The **make-up exam** will be more multiple choice

questions and will include some essay questions.

Disability Statement

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, or if you need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation, please contact the professor as soon as possible.

Plagiarism: This is the practice of using information from a source *without citing* the source and author in your text (Do not use papers from other courses to submit in this course. It is not acceptable e.g. Atypical Child and Adolescent psychology paper submitted to this course). This is a problem in some courses and will result in an F for the course. I will be using Turnitin for papers.

Cheating on Exams – Anyone caught cheating on any of the exams will receive an F for the course.

Please read Rutgers University Academic Integrity link.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>

ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES ARE TO BE OUT or ON DURING EXAMS.