

**Rutgers University**  
Course Syllabus  
**Abnormal Psychology**  
01: 830: 340 - Spring 2017

Date & Time: Tuesday and Friday – 10:20 – 11:40 AM  
Location: Tillett bldg. room 254 Livingston Campus  
Instructor: Stevie M. McKenna MA  
E-Mail: steviemc@rci.rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: by appt. Livingston campus Tillett#333

**Please Note:** In past semesters there have been bogus notes posted on the doors of classrooms stating that the assigned classroom has been reassigned to a different location. *Please ignore these notes.* **You will receive an email from myself or the psychology department if any changes in classroom assignment are made.**

**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.

**Required Texts:**

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

**Policy:**

- **IMPORTANT** - All students are **required to take all exams** including the final exam or final make up exam despite earning an A otherwise. If a student does not complete the final exam or final make-up they will receive no higher than a C for the course.
- There will be no extra credit work for this course due to the high enrollment for this course. Therefore it is imperative that students complete assigned work to do well.
- Grades bordering on any letter grade cannot be bumped up.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assigned Chapters</b>
Jan. 17 T	Getting acquainted / course requirements (syllabus)	
Jan.20	Intro. Historical Overview	Chapter 1
Jan.24 T	Current Paradigms in Psychopathology	Chapter 2
Jan. 27	Diagnostic and Assessment	Chapter 3
Jan. 31 T	Research Methods in Psychopathology	Chapter 4
<b>Feb. 3 F</b>	<b>Review for Exam I</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4</b>
<b>Feb. 7 T</b>	<b>EXAM I</b>	
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Mood Disorders / Suicide	Chapter 5
Feb. 14 T	Mood Disorders / Suicide	
Feb. 17	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
Feb. 21 T	<i>Guest Speaker</i> – Anxiety disorders ( date tentative)	
Feb. 24	Obsessive Compulsive Related – Trauma Related Disorders	Chapter 7
Feb. 28 T	Obsessive Compulsive Related –Trauma Related Disorders - contin.	
Mar. 3	Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom Related Disorders DVD	Chapter 8
Mar 7 T	Schizophrenia	Chapter 9
Mar. 10	<i>Guest Speaker</i> (date tentative)	
<b><u>MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> - MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> – SPRING BREAK</u></b>		
Mar.21 T	Substance Use disorders	Chapter 10

**REQUIRED PAPERS -**

**\* DUE MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> NO LATER THAN 11:30PM**

**\* SUBMIT TO ASSIGNMENTS ON SAKAI CLASS SITE.**

**1pt will be subtracted from the possible 10pts for each day late.**

Mar. 24 HBO – ADDICTION - DVD

**Mar. 28 T Review for Exam II Chapters 5, 6, 7,**

**Mar. 31 Review for Exam II Chapters 8, 9, 10**

**April 4 T EXAM II**

April 7 Eating Disorders Chapter 11

April 11 T Sexual Disorders Chapter 12

April 14 Disorders of Childhood Chapter 13

April 18 T Late Life and Neurocognitive Disorders Chapter 14

April 21 Personality Disorders Chapter 15

**April 25 T Review for Final Exam Chapters 11, 12, 13**

**April 28 Review for Final Exam Chapters 14, 15**

**May 2 and 3 READING DAYS**

**MAY 4th - MAY 10th FINALS WEEK**

**FINAL EXAM TBA**

**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 (**see list**). Some disorders that appear in childhood should be avoided as this course's main focus is on **adulthood** psychopathology.

\*\*\* **IMPORTANT** \*\*\* You will need to arrange your paper with **headings for each category**, (e.g. symptoms, cultural variables etc.) **THIS IS A MUST . No bullets.**

### **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 to 2 point each. You should include the following in 1 to 3 paragraphs each:

- **Symptoms** – symptoms typically seen in the disorder you are researching.– **prevalence rates. (1pt)**
- **Cultural variables** – You should list what world cultures (2) 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, Asian American).(2pts)
- **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 is diagnosed 2X more in women than in men etc. (1pt). Do the symptoms appear the same in both men and women?
- **Etiology** -Describe the biology and genetics behind the disorder you are researching. E.g. What **neurotransmitter systems and subcortical structures of the brain** are effected 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? (2pt)
- **Course and Prognosis** - Will it be a lifelong or chronic course e.g. schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, or relatively short episodes e.g. depression?)  
**For 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 have abated? (1pt)

- **Current treatment**-What is the most effective treatment for your chosen disorder? Explain the main underlying theory of the most effective treatment used. (1pt.)
- **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.(2pt)

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 - March 24<sup>th</sup> Friday by 11:45pm - Late papers will be docked 1 pt. per day late.***

**\*\*\* *Minimum page length 8 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.**

**\*\*\*Do not do your paper on any of the childhood disorders (ADHD, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, etc.)**

- **Anxiety disorders**
  - Panic attacks
  - Panic disorder
  - Agoraphobia
  - Specific phobia
  - Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD)
  - Social phobia
  - Separation anxiety disorder (SAD) **FOCUS MUST BE ADULTHOOD.**
  - Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  - Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
  - Body Dysmorphic disorder (BDD)
  - Body Integrity Identity disorder (BIID)

- Hoarding Disorder
- Excoriation (skin picking)
- Tricholliomania (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 known as mental retardation MR)**

- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe
- Profound
- Fragile X
- Down syndrome

*Please focus on the adult presentation not children.*

- **Eating disorders**

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

- **Substance abuse disorders**

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

- Abuse
- Dependence
  
- Gambling disorder

- **Cognitive disorders**

- Delirium
- Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Frontotemporal Dementia
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies
- Dementia
  - Alzheimer's Type
  - Vascular Dementia

- **Dissociative Disorders**

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

- **Somataform disorders**

- Conversion disorder
- Illness Anxiety disorder
- Somatic Symptom disorder
- Malingering
- Factitious disorder imposed on self
- Factitious disorder imposed on another (Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSbP))

- **Sexual disorders**

- Asexuality
- Gender Dysphoria disorder
- Fetishistic disorders
- Paraphilic disorders
  - Fetishistic
  - Transvestic
  - Voyeuristic
  - Exhibitionistic
  - Frotteuristic
  - Sexual sadism
  - Sexual masochism

## **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 important 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 an essay questions section. It will be hideous so try not to miss.

## **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.

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

**Academic Integrity At Rutgers :**

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