

Rutgers University
Course Syllabus
Abnormal Psychology
01: 830: 340H6 Summer^{3rd} Session 2017

Date & Time: Tuesday and Thursday – 6:00PM- 10:00PM
Location: Tillett bldg. room 230 Livingston Campus
Instructor: Stevie M. McKenna MA
E-Mail: steviemc@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: by appt. Livingston campus Tillett bldg. room 333

Please Note: In past summer sessions 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 the psychology department or me if any changes in classroom assignment are made.*

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. Therefore it is imperative that students complete all assigned work and exams to do well.
- Grades bordering on any letter grade cannot be bumped up.

Course Objectives

This course will introduce you to the 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 5* (DSM-5) as well as the efficacy of various treatment modalities including pharmacological interventions. As a result, you will be able to better recognize and define abnormal behavior from behavior that is considered to be within the normal range.

Through small group discussions you will critically analyze current psychologically based topics. As you discuss these topics with students in your group, your understanding and knowledge of the topic and your appreciation for the viewpoints of others will be enhanced.

Required Texts:

Abnormal Psychology 2nd Edition, Sage Publishing
Author – William J. Ray
ISBN # 978 1 5063 33359

Date	Topics	Assigned Chapters
July 11 T	Course requirements (syllabus) An Overview of Psychopathology and Changing Conceptualizations	Chapter 1
	Neuroscience Approaches to Understanding Psychopathology	Chapter 2
July 13 TH	Research Methods	Chapter 3

Assessment and Classification of Psychological Disorders Chapter 4
Disorders of Childhood Chapter 5

July 18 T Review for Exam I Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

July 20 TH EXAM I

Mood Disorders and Suicide Chapter 6

July 25 T Stress Trauma and Psychopathology Chapter 7
Anxiety Disorders and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders Chapter 8
Guest speaker

July 27 TH Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom Disorders Chapter 9
Eating Disorders Chapter 10

Aug 1 T REVIEW FOR EXAM II - Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Aug. 3 TH EXAM II -

Sexuality Disorders and Gender Dysphoria Chapter 11
Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Chapter 12
Guest speaker

**PAPERS ARE DUE Aug. 9th Wednesday 11:20pm – late papers will be docked
1 pt. for each day late. I will not accept papers after Aug. 11th. Post
on the Assignment section of Sakai.**

Aug. 8 T Schizophrenia Chapter 13
Group discussion
Personality Disorders Chapter 14
Neurocognitive Disorders Chapter 15

Aug. 10 TH REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM (Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

Aug. 15 T FINAL EXAM – The final exam is NOT cumulative.

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 text book for this course. Since DVDs will be shown periodically

during the course, you will **be expected to take adequate notes as some material from the dvds will appear on the exams.**

- **Some** videos that will be shown will not be available through the media center but are from my personal collection so you will not be able to find them at the media center or online. For this reason attendance is important. **If you are not able to attend class on the day that a video will be shown, 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 reflect information given on the study guides.
- **Small groups work** – On days where we will be covering specific chapters, we will be breaking up into small groups to discuss relevant topics during a portion of the class period.

Term paper (worth up to 10pt) due August 9th 11:20pm.

Your term paper should explore a recognized DSM-5 disorder. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT** papers on the following disorders:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),
- Conduct Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Separation Anxiety Disorder
- Autism or Pica

These disorders develop primarily in childhood which is not the focus of this course. (*See list*).

YOUR PAPER SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A definitive clinical picture of the disorder you are researching. Begin your paper with a very brief overview of the disorder you are researching. Each of the following bulleted components are worth 1 to 2 points each and should be from **2 to 4 paragraphs** each depending on the point.

- **Symptoms and Prevalence rates** – typical symptoms seen in the disorder you are researching.– Prevalence rates should include sub-cultures of the US such as African American, Asian American, Hispanic American populations as well as 2 or 3 countries. (If you choose to research alcohol abuse and dependence, you will need to include the Native American subculture.) (1pt.)
- **Cultural variables** – You should list what world cultures your disorder is found in and if it **presents with the same symptom picture** reported in the U.S. (Prevalence rates should be addressed in the Symptoms and Prevalence section above.)You should also include subcultures of the US (e.g. African American, Native American, Hispanic). (2pts)
- **Age of onset and Gender features** - What is the average age when symptoms appear that lead to a diagnosis? **For Gender features:** Does the symptom picture present differently in men compared to women? Is it more common in one sex as opposed to the other? ex. Bipolar is equally common among men and women, major depression is seen 2X more in women than in men etc. (1pt.)
- **Etiology** - Describe the biology and genetics involved in the disorder you are researching. (2pt.)
 - **Neurotransmitter systems and sub-cortical structures of the brain:** What are the neurotransmitter systems and sub-cortical brain structures that are dysregulated or atrophied in the disorder you are researching? Is it primarily a biological disorder such as schizophrenia or bipolar ? Does it have a trauma base to it which affects the biology of the individual such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression etc.?
 - **Is the disorder you are researching inheritable?** Does it run in families such as depression and anxiety disorders, Alzheimer's disease etc.?

- **Course and Prognosis** – Does the disorder you are researching have a chronic course such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder? Does it have a variable course such as seen in borderline personality disorder, or possibly episodic as seen in 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 age 70. E.g. Would the client still have to be on medication or still need to be in therapy? Would they still exhibit the complete criteria of symptoms of the disorder or would many of the symptoms abated by advanced age? (1pt)
- **Current treatment**- What is the most efficacious treatment model for the disorder you have chosen to research (Psychodynamic, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Behavioral therapy, Interpersonal therapy, Gestalt therapy, etc.)
 - Explain the **main underlying theory** of the treatment used.
 - Give an example of **ONE** technique that would be used from the therapy used to treat someone with the disorder you are researching. (1pt.)
- **Differential diagnosis** – You should compare and contrast another disorder (ONE) which is similar and how to differentiate it from the disorder you have chosen to research. In what ways is it similar and in what ways is it dissimilar? (How do you tell it apart?) E.g. major depression vs Persistent Depressive Disorder (formerly known as Dysthymia). (2pt.)

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

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

Articles, the DSM-5, 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 ect.**

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.**

***** Minimum page length 9 pages including the title and reference pages.**

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

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
- Social phobia
- Generalized Anxiety disorder (GAD)
- 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)

- **Personality disorders**

- **Cluster A**
 - Paranoid
 - Schizoid
 - Schizotypal

Comment [Sm1]:

- **Cluster B**
 - Antisocial
 - Borderline
 - Histrionic
 - Narcissistic
- **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 (include the SAD presentation sometimes seen in bipolar as well.)
 - 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
 - Downs syndrome

Focus should be only 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 (ONE) type of addictive substance such as cocaine, alcohol, heroin, etc.
 - Include both abuse and dependence
 - Gambling disorder
- **Cognitive disorders**
 - Delirium
 - Dementia (if you choose dementia, choose only ONE type of the following dementias.)
 - Alzheimer's Type
 - Vascular Dementia
 - Frontotemporal Dementia
 - Dementia with Lewy Bodies
- **Dissociative Disorders**
 - Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder)
 - Dissociative Fugue
 - Dissociative amnesia

- Fictitious disorder imposed on another
- Fictitious disorder imposed on self
- **Somataform disorders**
 - Conversion disorder
 - Somatic Symptom disorder
 - Illness anxiety disorder
- **Sexual disorders**
 - Sexual dysfunction disorders
 - Erectile disorder
 - Female Orgasmic disorder
 - Delayed Ejaculation/Early ejaculation
 - Female Sexual interest/Arousal disorder
 - Male Hypoactive Sexual Desire disorder
 - Genito-Pelvic Pain/Penetration disorder
 - Gender Dysphoria disorder
 - Paraphilic disorders
 - Exhibitionistic disorder
 - Frotteuristic disorder
 - Fetishistic disorder
 - Pedophilic disorder
 - Masochism disorder
 - Sadism disorder
 - Transvestic disorder
 - Voyeuristic disorder

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 an essay questions section.

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/>