

Rutgers University

Abnormal Psychology Fall 2011

**Course # Science and Engineering Resource Center (SERC) Room 118
Tuesday & Thursday 3:20-4:40pm.**

Location: Busch Campus

Instructor: Diana Amodeo, MA

Email address: amodeo.d13@rutgers.edu

I will try to respond to emails on the same day I receive them, but I can't guarantee that I will always be able to do this.

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm Room 333 Tillett Hall –
Livingston Campus**

Teaching Assistant: Leigh Wilton lwilton@eden.rutgers.edu

Course Description

This course will address the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of psychopathology. Abnormal Psychology is the study of abnormal behavior as it is exhibited in mental illness.

Course Objectives

- (A) the main objective of this course is to provide an introduction to the field of abnormal psychology and the diagnostic categories of psychological disorders.
- (B) to introduce the etiology of psychopathology from different theoretical perspectives.
- (C) to discuss intervention and approaches to treatment for psychological disorders.

You will be evaluated based on an understanding of the major diagnostic categories of psychological disorders and the distinctions between them. You should also understand the major theories of causation and current treatments for the disorders.

Textbook

Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2012). *Abnormal psychology an integrative approach, sixth edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. The text can be purchased through the Livingston campus bookstore or online.

Articles for Class Discussions

To be assigned throughout the course.

Date	Course Topics	Chapter
9/1	Overview of the course & video	
9/6	Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	1
9/8	This is a Monday Class	
9/13 & 9/15	An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	2
9/20 & 9/22	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	3
9/27	Exam 1	
9/29	Research Methods	4
10/4 & 10/6	Anxiety Disorders	5
10/11 & 10/13	Mood Disorders and Suicide	7
10/18 & 10/20	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	6
10/25	Exam 2	
10/27 & 11/1	Eating and Sleep Disorders	8
11/3	Physical Disorders and Health Psychology	9
11/8 & 11/10	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	10
	Case Study	
11/15	Substance-Related and Impulse-Control Disorders	11
11/17	Exam 3	
11/22	Personality Disorders	12
11/24	Thanksgiving Break	
11/29	Personality Disorders continued	12
12/1 & 12/6	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	13
12/8	Developmental Disorders	14
	Reaction Paper Due	
12/13	Cognitive Disorders	15
	& Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues	16
12/22	Final Exam	

Instructional Methods

This course will incorporate a variety of teaching methods including lectures, case study analysis, videos and discussions. Reading and understanding the text will be very important, as our discussions will focus primarily on this material. There is an expectation that you will be prepared to discuss and analyze the readings, actively participate in discussions and class activities.

Sakai

Sakai will be used for course updates, posting articles and organizing class discussions. The general directions are as follows: "Open your web browser and go to: <http://sakai.rutgers.edu>. enter your NetID and password in the top box on the left side of the page. Make sure not to

enter your full e-mail address, only the part that comes before the '@' symbol. If you need assistance, click 'Login Help: Rutgers Users' in the left menu. Click the 'Login' button to enter Sakai”.

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend every class; if you have to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website //https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will be automatically sent to me. In case of an absence from class, the student is responsible for materials covered, announcements made, and any changes in the syllabus that were discussed. If any student misses more than 3 classes a drop of a grade point can be expected unless a doctor’s note or valid explanation is given to the instructor.

Exams

Cell phones, iPods or other electronic devices may not be used during the exams. There will be four exams. Exams may be a mixture of written and multiple choice questions. Exam 1-3 will account for 20% of the total grade. The Final Exam will be worth 25% of the total grade. The reaction paper will account for 15% of your grade. There may be additional material that was covered in class on any of the exams.

Please note my policy for missed exams.

Makeup

Makeups are only allowed for a legitimate and verifiable reason, the student must sit for the makeup within three weekdays of the scheduled date for the missed exam. Written and signed documentation will be required, and since the makeup will allow for additional time, the written portion of the exam will demand a more thorough understanding of the material. Failure to complete the makeup within three weekdays of the scheduled exam will result in a loss of points equal to what the exam represented.

Rutgers athletic obligations, religious events, weddings etc that are going to interfere with taking the scheduled exams will require that you take the exam earlier than scheduled. It is up to you to let me know immediately about these events so I can give you the exam at an earlier date. If you miss or don’t take the exam, then you will not receive any points for that exam and it could seriously jeopardize your final grade.

Students with Special Needs

Students requesting special testing accommodations (e.g., extra time, separate space) will have to make arrangements with their counselor/coordinator from the Office of Student Disabilities. You must notify your coordinator at least *one week* before the exam date. Please inform me on

the first or second class if you require special testing accommodations and let me know if you need any help with this process.

Grades

Grading System: Students will need to achieve predetermined cut-off points for grades of A, B+, and so on. Cut-off points will be as follows:

A 90-100 B+ 86-89.9 B 75-85.9 C+ 71-74.9 C 60-70.9 D 50-59.9 F <50

Extra Credit

Students will have the option to receive extra credit. The extra credit will be earned by answering additional questions on the final exam. These questions will be based on material covered in class and/or articles assigned during the course. The articles will be posted on Sakai for you to review. Students can review the articles and answer extra credit questions on the final exam. If you get all questions correct you will earn 5% extra credit. This will be added to whatever percentage score is received based on the exams, lecture material, paper and the assigned articles.

Reaction Paper

Watch the movie *Girl Interrupted* in your spare time. Provide your reaction to the movie in relation to abnormal psychology. For example, what evidence did you see for the diagnosis of the main character or other supporting characters? Do you agree with the diagnosis if so, why or why not? The paper should be between three to five pages and will be due on 12/8. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a legitimate and verifiable reason. Written and signed documentation will be required. Make sure you check for grammar and spelling errors.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class. Continued lateness will result in a grade point deduction. Students are expected to remain in class and not leave early unless the class ends earlier. I expect all students to be respectful of the other students' questions and comments and to keep in mind that time should be shared equally among students for questions and comments. This point is made to assure fairness to all students.

Cell Phones

All cell phones, iPods, pagers etc. must be turned off during class!! In a large classroom it is important to be considerate of your classmates at all times.

Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. You are responsible for all the information contained in this syllabus, and for any changes made to the syllabus that I announce in class or post on the Sakai website.

Notice on Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable. The University has established severe penalties for these violations. I strongly advise you to review the penalties on the 2011 Undergraduate Catalog and to comply with the University guidelines.

The link is <http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu/>.