



# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## COURSE SYLLABUS

830:340:07

### Abnormal Psychology

Term: Fall 2011

Instructor: Minu Poulose, MEd, NCSP

Instructor's Office Hours: **Thurs: 4:30pm to 5:00pm**  
**Thurs 6:30pm to 7:00pm**

Class Location/Time: Lucy Stone Hall – Auditorium  
Tues/Thurs: 5:00pm – 6:20pm

Phone/email: mpoulose@rci.rutgers.edu

Office Location: Tillet 333

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology: a course that will explore how psychological disorders are rooted in various factors such as biological, psychological, cultural, sociological and familial.

### II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2012). *Abnormal psychology: An integrated approach*. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

### III. LEARNING GOALS

The learning goals in this course contribute to the general goals of the Department of Psychology. Students will gain a general understanding of:

- The study, history and science of abnormal psychology.
- The causes of abnormal behavior from various paradigms.
- The commonly accepted treatment modalities for abnormal behavior.
- The relationship between mental illness, culture and the legal system.
- The classification and assessment of mental illness: eg., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, personality disorders, eating and sleeping disorders, substance use disorders, sexual and gender identity disorders, schizophrenic disorders, cognitive and developmental disorders

### *How to succeed in this class*

- Come to class, every class. Take detailed notes during class. The power point should be used as a reference as it does not cover everything.
- Read the text assigned for the day. Take notes as you read. Reread as needed.
- Study ahead; do not wait till the last minute to “cram.” Cramming the material does not allow for retention of information.
- Exchange contact information with at least three people to get missing notes (i.e. my office hours will be for clarification of problems not repeating lectures), call to study for exams, and discuss lecture, etc.
- If you have questions, ask a classmate, come to office hour, and email the instructors.
- Enjoy the course and think about the material discussed outside of the classroom setting.

#### **IV. REQUIRED READINGS & SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
9/1	Syllabus	
9/6	Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Pgs 1 -12
9/8	No Class – Monday Class	
9/13	Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Pgs 13-25
9/15	Chapter 2 : An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Pgs 28-52
9/20	Chapter 2 : An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Pgs 52-66
9/22	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	Pgs 68-84
9/27	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	Pgs 85-97
9/29	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-3</b>	
10/4	Chapter 5: Anxiety Disorders	Pgs 122-149
10/6	Chapter 5: Anxiety Disorders	Pgs 149-168
10/11	Chapter 6: Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	Pgs 172-205
10/13	Chapter 7: Mood Disorders & Suicide	Pgs 208-238
10/18	Chapter 7: Mood Disorders & Suicide	Pgs 240-259
10/20	Chapter 8: Eating and Sleep Disorders	Pgs 262-286
10/25	Chapter 8: Eating and Sleep Disorders	Pgs 286-306
10/27	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-8</b>	
11/1	Chapter 9: Physical Disorders and Health Psych	Pgs 310-343
11/3	Chapter 10: Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	Pgs 346-365
11/8	Chapter 10: Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	Pgs 365-386
11/10	Chapter 11: Substance-Related & Impulse-Control	Pgs 390-417
11/15	Chapter 11: Substance-Related & Impulse-Control	Pgs 419-429
11/17	Chapter 12: Personality Disorders	Pgs 432-465
11/22	<b>Exam 3: Chapter 9-12</b>	
11/29	Chapter 13: Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	Pgs 468-478
12/1	Chapter 13: Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	Pgs 478-499
12/6	Chapter 14: Developmental Disorders	Pgs 502-531
12/13	Chapter 15: Cognitive Disorders	Pgs 534-555
12/15	Reading Day – No class	
12/20	<b>Final Exam: Chapters 13-15</b>	
	<i>Have a great winter break!</i>	

## **V. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website [//https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Absence from a scheduled examination should occur only under the most serious circumstances. Missing an examination for non-medical reasons (e.g., oversleeping, car trouble, etc.) will usually result in a 25-50% deduction from your score on a make-up exam.

<http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/fallfinals.shtml>

If you have a legitimate medical excuse for missing the final exam, you will receive a TF in the course until the make-up has been completed. You should check the entire final exam schedule **now** so you know what your schedule will be at the end of the semester.

## **VI. GRADING CRITERIA**

There will be four exams and the course will operate on the total points system. Your grade depends only your own performance, not on the performance of your class as a whole. The distribution of the possible points is as follows:

Exams \_\_\_\_\_ Best 3 of 4 @ 60 points each = \_\_\_\_\_ 180 points \_\_\_\_\_

Grades will be assigned as follows:

(90%) <b>A</b>	=	162-180 pts
(88%) <b>B+</b>	=	158-161 pts
(80%) <b>B</b>	=	144-157 pts
(78%) <b>C+</b>	=	140-143 pts
(70%) <b>C</b>	=	126-139 pts
(65%) <b>D</b>	=	117-125 pts
<b>F</b>	=	≤ 116pts

## **VII. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

**\*Professionalism and Respect for Others.** The instructors and students in this course will act with integrity and strive to engage in appropriate and professional verbal and nonverbal behavior. Everyone will demonstrate respect for each other. I am dedicated to creating an educational environment that respects diversity and individual differences. Please share in the responsibility of helping to meet this goal. Texting, surfing the internet, playing games are inappropriate in the classroom environment.

**\* Academic Accommodations.** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all qualified persons have equal opportunity and access to education regardless of any disabling condition. If you need academic accommodations in this course, please make an appointment with the Office for Disability Services. The phone number is (732) 932-8266/932-2177.

For more information, <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>

Once you have a letter of accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible and feel free to come to office hours or make an appointment to discuss the situation with me privately. Begin this process immediately to ensure we can provide accommodations in time for the first exam.

\* **Academic Integrity:** You'll be expected to adhere to the university's policy on academic honesty for exams (i.e., don't cheat). I will enforce the University's regulations on academic integrity and I ask for your help in reporting any suspected violations to me or to the Office of Student Conduct. You'll find the RU policy on academic integrity here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>