

SYLLABUS: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY 340: course index 69039
PROFESSOR SHORS, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, Rutgers University
Spring 2012, TF (10:20-11:40) Livingston Campus

LCB110 (small building next to Tillett)

Course Sakai site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

TEXTBOOK: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY: CORE CONCEPTS, 2011, by Butcher, Mineka and Hooley. It is available at Barnes and Noble on Livingston Campus. You should definitely get the book because it will help you learn and rehearse the material.

PLEASE SEE TA FOR ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT READINGS, EXAMS AND EXAM GRADES!

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Julia West, her email is: west.julia.a@gmail.com

Office Hours: By Appointment. (Rm 235 Computer lab, Psychology Bldg, Busch Campus.)

General questions about course content should be directed to Dr. Shors (shors@rutgers.edu)

(Professor office hours are Wednesday morning 8-10AM, room 201 Psychology Bldg, Busch Campus)

Abnormal Psychology is the study of abnormal behavior, particularly as it manifests itself in mental illness. I will cover all the major mental disorders with an emphasis on neurobiological mechanisms as well as diagnosis and treatment. The goal is to gain an overall understanding of the major mental illnesses, as well as what causes someone to experience and express the symptoms of these illnesses. Also, the information should allow you to think about what makes someone "abnormal" rather than "normal." Finally, you will gain knowledge about the underlying mechanisms of these disorders and the most common forms of treatment, including psychological approaches. I will also emphasize prevention as well as discussing ways to maintain a healthy brain. You are expected to learn and *remember* the material that we cover in class, much of which is in the book but some is not. You should read the relevant chapters before the lecture. That way, you will already have a foundation on which to build your knowledge as it is presented. I want you all to enjoy the course, but also gain understanding *and* compassion for those suffering with mental illness. That is my goal and hopefully yours as well.

There are three exams. They are noncumulative, including the final exam. The first is worth 25%, the second 35% and the final is worth 40% of your grade. The exams are objective and consist primarily of multiple-choice questions. I will not try to trick you and will therefore not ask you anything on the test that I did not present in class. Make-up exams are only given for *verifiable* emergency accompanied by a doctor's note. Please do not ask for extra points. Make-up exams consist of short answer and essay questions. Good luck to you all.

TOPICS:

1. Abnormal Psychology over time (Chapter 1)
2. Causal factors and viewpoints (Chapter 2)
3. Clinical assessment (Chapter 3)
4. Stress and stress-related disorders (Chapters 4)
5. Panic and anxiety (Chapter 5)

***First Midterm (during normal class period: February 10; 25% of final grade)**

6. Mood disorders and suicide (Chapter 6)
7. Somatoform and dissociative disorders (Chapter 7)
8. Eating and sleeping disorders (Chapter 8)
9. Personality disorders (Chapter 9)

***Second Midterm (during normal class period: March 30, 35% of final grade)**

10. Schizophrenia (Chapter 12)
11. Substance abuse (Chapter 10)
12. Sexual disorders and dysfunction (Chapter 11)
13. Cognitive disorders (Chapter 13)
14. Disorders of childhood and adolescence (Chapter 14)
15. Maintaining a healthy brain

***Third Midterm (during scheduled final exams; May 9; 8-11 AM; 40% of final grade)**