

Rutgers University Fall 2012
830:340:07: Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)
Mondays & Wednesdays 5-6:20pm
Lucy Stone Hall, Room AUD, Livingston Campus
Course Sakai site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Tara Harrison, Ph.D.
Contact Info: tara.harrison@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment
Office Location: Tillett 327

TA: Emily Panza
Contact Info: emily.panza@rutgers.edu
Office Hour: Monday 1-3pm
Office Location: Tillett 529

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Required Textbook:** Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2012). *Abnormal Psychology: An integrative approach* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- **Format of Textbook:** Your text is available in print or online. The print version is available at RU Bookstore in New Brunswick at Ferren Mall, or at NJ Books. The e-book rental version is available at: <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781111343651>. If you use the e-book version, I recommend reading it in “classic” mode because the “New Reader” mode has typos in the key terms.
- **Optional Web Resources:** This is not mandatory, but if you would like, you can purchase online access to the companion website, which includes practice multiple-choice quizzes, videos, and other study aides. (cengage.com/login).
- **Sakai:** Syllabus is on Sakai website. Additional readings may be placed on the Sakai website and announced in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide an introduction to the major forms of psychological disorders, including description, classification, etiology, and treatment. We will explore abnormal behavior from various theoretical perspectives including psychological, biological, and socio-cultural approaches. Emphasis will be placed on integrative and multidimensional approaches to understanding psychological disorders. Abnormal psychology is a fascinating topic and I think you will enjoy the course.

LEARNING GOALS:

- To provide an integrative overview of the field of abnormal psychology

- To identify the necessary and sufficient criteria that define “abnormal” behavior in contrast to “normal” behavior, and to reflect upon the legitimacy of this dichotomy
- To become familiar with the basic criteria for the diagnosis and classification of major psychological disorders.
- To become familiar with the various theoretical approaches to the causes (etiology) of psychopathology
- To describe the phenomenology (the experience of the afflicted individual) of the most common psychological disorders
- To provide an understanding of the fundamentals of scientific research methods used in examining abnormal behavior
- To become familiar with current intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders.

EXPECTATIONS

- **Attendance:** Formal attendance is required but will not be policed. It is expected that you will learn the material that is covered in class, much of which is in the book but some is not. Material not addressed in the book will be covered in lecture and appear on the exams.
- **Be Respectful:** You are expected to be respectful and considerate of all others, including classmates and the instructor. This includes listening, thoughtfully reflecting on the material, and *turning off cell phones during class time*. Any case examples provided by the instructor will be based on real people with identifying details disguised. I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ASK A STUDENT(S) TO LEAVE THE LECTURE ROOM IF I BELIEVE THAT THE STUDENT IS DISRUPTING THE ATTENTION OF OTHER STUDENTS, AS WELL AS MYSELF.

POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity:** Rutgers students are expected to accept the principles defining academic integrity. Anyone caught cheating will receive a 0 for the exam and will be referred to the dean as outlined by the University’s policy on academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity>
- **Make-up Exams:** Please note that make-up exams will only be given under extreme circumstances of a *verifiable emergency accompanied by a doctor’s note*. If you miss an exam without prior authorization by the instructor, you will receive 0 points for that particular exam. Students who need make-up exams should contact me (preferably *before* the day of the exam). Make-up exams are more difficult than regular exams, and may include short-answer and essay questions.

EVALUATION

Your final grade will be calculated based on your performance on three non-cumulative exams that will be completed during your normal class period.

All exams will be multiple-choice format, and will cover material presented in lectures, in-class videos, and text readings. Each exam is worth 1/3 of your grade.

- **Exam 1: Monday, 10/1 (33.3%).** This exam will cover material from chapters 1-5 of your text, and in-class material from 9/5-9/26.
- **Exam 2: Wednesday, 11/7 (33.3%).** This exam will cover material from chapters 6-9 & 11 of your text, and in-class material from 10/3-11/5.
- **Exam 3: Wednesday, 12/12 (33.3%).** This exam will cover material from chapters 12-16 of your text, and in-class material from 11/12-12/10.

The grading scale is as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B+: 87-89%
- B: 80-86%
- C+: 77-79%
- C: 70-76%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Students with Disabilities: Any students requesting special testing accommodations (e.g., extra time, separate space) due to a disability or other special needs should make this known to the instructor during the first week of class. You will need to provide documentation from the Office of Disability (848-445-6800) and they will help arrange for you to take the exams with the proper accommodations.

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Reading
Wed 9/5/12	Welcome, Class Business, What is Abnormal Behavior?	None
Mon 9/10/12	Theoretical Models: A Multidimensional Approach	Chapter 1 (especially pp. 1-6, 11-23) & Chapter 2 (pp. 28-36, 38-48, 53-56)
Wed 9/12/12	Assessment & Diagnosis	Chapter 3
Mon 9/17/12	Research Methods	Chapter 4
Wed 9/19/12	Anxiety Disorders: GAD, PD, phobias	Chapter 5 (pp. 123-149)
Mon 9/24/12	Anxiety Disorders: social phobia, PTSD	Chapter 5 (pp. 149-160)
Wed 9/26/12	Anxiety Disorders: OCD & TS	Chapter 5 (pp. 160-168)
Mon 10/1/12	EXAM 1	
Wed 10/3/11	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7
Mon 10/8/12	Mood Disorders cont'd	Chapter 7
Wed 10/10/12	Mood Disorders cont'd	Chapter 7
Mon 10/15/12	Somatoform Disorders	Chapter 6 (pp. 173-192)
Wed 10/17/12	Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6 (pp. 192-205)
Mon 10/22/12	Eating Disorders	Chapter 8 (pp. 263-289)
Wed 10/24/12	Sleep Disorders	Chapter 8 (pp. 289-306)

Mon 10/29/12	Health Psychology	Chapter 9
Wed 10/31/12	Substance Disorders	Chapter 11 (pp. 391-424)
Mon 11/5/12	Impulse-Control Disorders	Chapter 11 (pp. 424-429)
Wed 11/7/12	EXAM 2	
Mon 11/12/12	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
Wed 11/14/12	Personality Disorders cont'd	Chapter 12
Mon 11/19/12	Schizophrenia	Chapter 13
Wed 11/21/12	No Class	Friday classes today
Mon 11/26/12	Other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 13
Wed 11/28/12	Developmental Disorders	Chapter 14
Mon 12/3/12	Developmental Disorders	Chapter 14
Wed 12/5/12	Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 15
Mon 12/10/12	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 16
Wed 12/12/12	EXAM 3	

Note: Syllabus may be changed at discretion of professor - changes will be announced in class.