

**Rutgers University**  
Summer 2013

## **Abnormal Psychology**

01:830:340:H6

**Date & Time:** MW 6:00 – 9:45

**Location:** Lucy Stone Hall-B115 Livingston Campus

**Instructor:** Jason Samlin, Psy.M.

**E-mail:** jmsamlin@eden.rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Busch Campus, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology.

*Changes in class room times and room locations will be announced ONLY by the instructor. Notices on class room doors should be ignored, if they have not been confirmed in advanced by an email from the instructor.*

### **Course Objectives**

This course will serve as an introduction to the study of abnormal behavior and psychopathology. We will be examining the way in which cultural factors, situational factors, developmental variables, biology, and cognitions contribute to the development and maintenance of dysfunctional behavior. Additionally, we will be learning about the various ways to conceptualize abnormal behavior from a clinical perspective and how various theoretical orientations approach treatment of various disorders.

We will be examining what constitutes abnormal behavior and psychopathology using the Diagnostic Statistical Manual 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (DSM-5). Though the DSM-5 represents the most current conceptions of psychopathology according to the APA, it is by no means perfect, and over the course of the term we will be examining the shortcomings of the DSM-5 and alternative views on specific disorder classifications.

### **Textbook and Other Materials\***

Richard J. Comer (2013): *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, 7th ed.*  
New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

#### **\*NOTE:**

While there is an older addition of this text available, make sure you get the text with the DSM-5 updates. If you do not get the DSM-5 edition, you will be working with outdated information and will have difficulty with this course.

Not all material used in this class will come from the textbook. I will frequently use material from other sources, especially when discussing treatments of various psychological disorders. Additionally, video clips and movies will be used and discussed in class. Powerpoint slides, as

well as any articles discussed in class, will be posted on sakai under the “resources” tab. You are responsible both for what is in the text and what is covered in the powerpoints and lecture.

## **Grading**

### **3 Exams Term Paper**

**75% of final grade  
25% of final grade**

A = 90-100%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 80-86%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 70-76%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

## **Exams**

Exams will include material from the book as well as class lecture and discussion, so coming to class and taking good notes will increase your chance of success in this class. The purpose of the exams is to assess your knowledge of specific disorders and will not just ask questions about the specific diagnostic criteria of each disorder. Therefore, it would be a good idea to be able to identify a disorder if given a clinical vignette.

## **Term Paper**

This paper will consist of an examination of a psychological disorder that is found in a movie. The psychological disorder discussed must be found within the DSM-5. Papers should summarize the movie (in no more than one page), identify and discuss the disorder as found in the movie, describe how the disorder might have developed, and discuss the accuracy of the disorder as portrayed in the movie. Additionally, please briefly discuss some possible treatments for the chosen disorder. Acceptable reference sources include the DSM-5, articles, books, and online material, but please do not cite the textbook. Notify me of your topic by 7/22, papers will be due 8/12 by 11:59 pm.

*Paper should be no more than 7 pages double spaced 12-pt. font, plus a references section.  
Please use APA format for citations and references.*

## **Course Website**

A sakai site has been created for this course. The website will contain lecture slides and any other reference information that was discussed in lecture. Additionally, any changes to the syllabus will be posted to sakai and announced in class. You are responsible for any changes to the syllabus.

## **Student Accommodations**

Any student requiring academic accommodations please contact the Office of Disability Services. Any accommodations requested for this course will require a letter from Disability Services and must be submitted by the third class.

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in immediate failure of the course. Term papers will be submitted to turnitin.com in order to verify the authenticity of your work.

### **Late and Makeup Policy**

Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements are made with me prior to the due date of the assignment. Extensions will be granted on an individual basis. Because of the time constraints associated with a summer course, make-up exams will only be granted under extreme circumstances and students requesting an extension or makeup exam must present a signed note from the dean. Vacations are not an acceptable excuse for missing work.

*The study of abnormal psychology is fascinating, but sometimes the discussion of psychopathology and psychological disorders can raise personal issues that may be difficult. If you are experiencing emotional difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact Counseling, ADAP, & Psychiatry Services (CAPS) at 848-932-7884.*

### **Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
7/8	Class orientation; history and models of abnormal psychology.	1-2
7/10	Clinical assessment and diagnosis; Anxiety disorders.	3-4
7/15	Mood disorders and suicide, review for Exam I.	6-7
7/17	<b>EXAM I</b>	
7/22	Trauma and stress-related disorders; Substance use disorders.	5, 10, <b>Paper topic due</b>
7/24	Somatic disorders; Disorders of sex and gender.	8, 11
7/29	Eating disorders, review for Exam II	9
7/31	<b>EXAM II</b>	
8/5	Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders.	12
8/7	Personality disorders.	13
8/12	Disorders of aging and cognition, review for Exam III.	15, <b>Paper due</b>
8/14	<b>EXAM III</b>	

\*The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus. Students will be made aware of the changes via the course sakai site.