

**Abnormal Psychology
Psy 200
Fall 2006**

Instructor: Dr. Fred Nute
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Office Hrs: As Announced

TEXT:

**Durand and Barlow (2006). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology (4th Ed.).
Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing.**

PREREQUISITE: General Psychology I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of various psychological disorders, including their signs, symptoms, causes, and treatment, as well as, the theoretical perspectives through which these disorders are viewed. Legal and ethical issues are also discussed along with other controversial topics in the field. Note: PSY113-General Psychology is a prerequisite for Abnormal Psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Examine the history, basic concepts, major views, and research methodology that characterizes the field of abnormal psychology.**
- 2. Assess the complexity of maladaptive behavior.**
- 3. Examine the diagnostic processes and methods of assessment involved in psychopathology.**
- 4. Examine the essential features of the main psychiatric disorders listed in the DSM-IV.**
- 5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders.**
- 6. Analyze the dominant mental health issues and controversies in abnormal psychology.**
- 7. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively in groups.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Chapter 1
An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Chapter 2
Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Research	Chapter 3
EXAM ONE	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 4
Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 5
Mood Disorders and Suicide	Chapter 6
EXAM TWO	Chapters 4, 5, 6
Physical Disorders and Health Psychology	Chapter 7
Eating Disorders	Chapter 8
Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 9
EXAM THREE	Chapters 7, 8, 9
Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 10
Personality Disorders	Chapter 11
Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 12
EXAM FOUR	Chapters 10, 11, 12
Developmental and Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 13
Mental Health Services: Legal & Ethical Issues	Chapter 14
EXAM FIVE	Chapters 13, 14

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Teaching procedure will consist of lectures, classroom discussions, in-class writing assignments, group activities, demonstrations, and the use of videos or video clips, as well as powerpoint presentations. It is hoped that class discussions and other experiential activities will offer an opportunity for raising pertinent issues and exploring situations which apply to assigned topics in the area of abnormal psychology.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

Participation in class is important and means that you should be prepared by pre-reading the assigned chapters in the text as indicated on the course schedule in order to contribute pertinent information to group discussions and class activities. A list of Learning Objectives (Study Stems) will be made available in advance to aid your study and preparation for exams and classroom discussions.

Note: You are responsible for all information presented in class, even if it is not contained in the textbook. Also, it is your responsibility to find out what happened in missed classes, including any announcements or schedule changes. In addition, students are expected to arrive on time for class and stay until the end of the class period.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: There will be five (5) exams during the semester. Each exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions, each worth one (1) point. The final or fifth exam will also consist of 60 multiple-choice questions and will **NOT** be comprehensive. **NOTE: You do not have the option of skipping the final exam.** Failure to take the final exam will result in an automatic F for the course. Also, the time and date for the final are not optional or open to change. The final exam must be taken by everyone at the scheduled time and on the scheduled date as per the college calendar. All Exams will count toward your final grade; i.e., *no exams will be dropped.* Grading will follow the conventional 90-80-70-60% scale.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Grading)

Your final grade will be calculated on a 300 point total using the following scale:

270 - 300 = A

240 - 269 = B

211 - 239 = C

180 - 210 = D

Below 180 = F

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Make-up exams will only be given for valid and clearly documented reasons. You must have a very strong justification and instructor approval to be eligible to take a make-up exam. If you fail to take a scheduled exam, you will have three days to contact the instructor to address the issue. Failure to contact the instructor within the prescribed time frame will result in an automatic zero for that exam. All make-ups will consist entirely of essay questions. The date and time for make-ups will be per the instructor's discretion.

Extra Credit Options:

- 1. Students may elect to obtain extra credit with a term paper. Up to 30 points can be obtained by writing a paper. Any topic that is relevant to the study of Abnormal Psychology is acceptable. However, specific topics must be submitted to the instructor on or before October 10. Students should submit a detailed outline or paragraph (not a few sentences). Some practical advice: Spend some time in the library investigating a topic that interests you before you submit a paper topic proposal; otherwise, your description of a proposed paper topic is unlikely to be detailed enough to be approved. Paper topic proposals will be returned with feedback shortly after they are submitted; students should not begin writing a paper before their topic proposal has been approved and returned. (Only approved papers will be awarded points). Papers should be 10-12 typed pages (double-spaced) in length and should use 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and page numbers. Papers are due on or before November 23. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Clarity of ideas, organization, content, and style (including basic rules of grammar) will be considered in awarding points. All sources must be cited in the body of the paper as well as included in a reference list at the end of the paper. You should have at least 6-8 different sources, including authoritative books on the topic, professional journals, etc.**
- 2. Use one of the paradigms in the text (e.g., psychoanalytic, behavioral or humanistic) to analyze a character from a work of fiction. Up to 15 points can be obtained for this project. From the point of view of abnormal psychology, what sort of disorder does the character have? What are the symptoms? From the point of view of your particular paradigm, what might cause the disorder? You will need to provide sufficient background and details about the character to support your point of view. Students must receive prior approval of their work of fiction. Papers should be 6-8 typed pages (double-spaced). Papers are due on or before November 23. Late papers will NOT be accepted.**
- 3. Pick one of the disorders in the textbook and read 4-5 research studies about its causes. Prior approval required. Describe the studies and their results. What do the studies tell us about the causes of the disorder? Note: These research studies should be taken from professional journals only, such as the following: (e.g., Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, Archives of General Psychiatry, Psychological Bulletin), and not from the popular press (e.g., Readers Digest, Parents Magazine, Science Digest, Psychology Today, a newspaper article) or from an internet site or another secondary source. You can get help from LRC staff in locating and accessing professional journals. Up to 15 points can be obtained for this project. Papers should be 6-8 typed pages (double-spaced), including a reference page to document your sources. Papers are due on or before November 23. Late papers will NOT be accepted.**
- 4. Pick one of the disorders in the textbook and, using recent research studies evaluating various treatments of the disorder, discuss the effectiveness of the treatments. What are the strengths and limitations of the different approaches to treating the disorder? What factors might explain differences in the effectiveness of the various treatments? Note: The research studies should be taken from professional journals (see example #3 above). Prior approval is required. Papers should be 6-8 typed pages (double-spaced), including a reference page to document sources. Papers are due on or before November 23. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Up to 15 points can be obtained for this project.**

COURSE POLICY:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable academic behavior and will result in an automatic (F) in the course. The academic dean will be notified of all instances of cheating.

Class Attendance: There are no UNEXCUSED ABSENCES! If a student is absent, he or she is simply absent. More than 2 absences may result in a lower course grade or your being dropped from the course. Two consecutive absences will result in an automatic drop.

Tardiness: Two tardies = one absence. "Tardy" is defined as coming in the classroom after I have started the class. Tardiness can therefore result in your being withdrawn from the class

Special Needs: If you need special assistance or support due to special circumstances such as a physical and/or learning disability, please contact me as soon as possible.

Completion: If for any reason a student fails to complete any of the course requirements, that student will be issued an F as a final grade. THE ONLY WAY A (WITHDRAWAL) WILL BE ISSUED IS IF THE STUDENT FORMALLY WITHDRAWS THROUGH THE REGISTRARS OFFICE OR PERSONALLY REQUESTS ONE FROM ME PRIOR THO THE OFFICIAL POSTED LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CLASS.