

PSYC 385	Abnormal Psychology	Winter 2020
Instructor:	Guy Pelletier	Lecture Location: D2L
Phone:	403-521-3886	Lecture Days/Time: W 18:00 – 20:45
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Office:	A155	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description

A major objective of this course is to survey the field of adult psychopathology. The course will start with an introductory group of lectures during which we will review of the concept of abnormal behavior, followed by the study of possible causes (etiology) of abnormal behavior, the classification of mental disorders, and assessment issues. The main core of lectures will consist in reviews of the psychological aspects of various diagnostic categories of adult psychopathology. Students should keep in mind that this is a survey course indented to provide basic, wide-ranging knowledge of abnormal psychology. This is an ambitious endeavor that will require the learning and understanding of a considerable amount of information. The course will follow the textbook relatively closely, although not exclusively. Students interested in more detailed discussions of various disorders and other subjects will be encouraged to consider higher-level, more advanced courses.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify and describe biological, psychological, and socio-cultural bases of adult psychopathology.	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Describe how the understanding and classification of mental disorders evolved over time	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Identify and describe different mental disorders including their classification, causes, symptoms, and diagnostic criteria	Multiple choice exams, Written assignment	1,2,4,7	C
Identify and discuss legal and ethical (e.g., stigma, stereotypes etc.) issues related to mental health/disorders	Multiple choice exams	1,6	I
Identify issues and methods related to the prevention and treatment of mental health problems	Multiple choice exams, Written term assignment	1,2,4,7	I

Identify and compare similarities and differences between disorders and/or disorder subtypes within/between different diagnostic classifications	Multiple choice exams	1,2	C
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Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 and 201– Principles of Psychology I and II

Required Text

Dozois, D.J.A. (2019). *Abnormal Psychology Perspectives (6th Ed.)*. Toronto: Pearson Canada. Available at the U of C bookstore or as an e-book.

Do note that there are significant differences between the 5th and 6th editions of this textbook. For example, chapters 10, 12, and 18, which are covered in this course, have been re-written. Although 5th editions of the textbook might be available as used textbooks, there is no assurance that the 5th edition will meet the students' needs for this course.

Assessment Methods

Mid-term #1:

Wednesday March 4, 2020 - 60 minutes -

20% of final grade

Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,8 and corresponding lectures

Mid-term #2:

Wednesday March 25, 2020 from 6-7:30pm to be accessed and completed through D2L quizzes

20% of final grade

Not cumulative-Chapters 6,7,10,11,12 and corresponding lectures

Final exam:

April 27 at 3:30pm to be accessed, completed, and submitted through D2L Quizzes by April 28 at 3:30pm

2.0 hours - **40%** of final grade

Cumulative, covering all readings and lecture material, with a greater emphasis on chapters 9,13,17,18 and corresponding lectures

Written assignments:

Written assignment #1 due February 12, hard copies in class and electronic copies in the D2L dropbox.

Written Assignment #2 due March 18, hard copies in class and electronic copies in the D2L dropbox.

Overview

For **each** assignment, collect **two (2) pieces of popular media information published in the past 24 months**. The media examples you choose may include blog posts, newspaper/ magazine articles, advertisements, web pages, comic strips, photographs, advice columns, songs, TV shows, movies, or anything else that strikes you as relevant. **Note:** these should not be media examples described in the

textbook, you should find them yourself. The material chosen must be directly relevant to **adult abnormal psychology and to concepts and ideas covered in the course (textbook, classes)**. Students may decide to choose material on topics not yet covered in class or not directly covered in class or in the textbook, which means that they may have to read ahead and/or do some extra research. **If you are not sure of the relevance of your material, please ask.**

The material chosen **must** be included with the papers. If students choose audio-visual material (movies, videos, TV shows episodes, etc.), they must include a sufficient summary or description of the material for the marker to appreciate its relevance. **1.5/10 marks will be taken off for each piece of information not included. Materials chosen from online sources must be printed and included with the papers. If only the URLs are given, it will be the marker's choice whether to look up the material or not.**

Using course material:

1) Carefully explain how each media item relates to one specific abnormal psychological concepts (for example; notions of what constitutes mental health and/or mental disorders, statistics on mental health, opinion pieces on mental health and its importance for individuals and society, reports on specific mental disorders, public attitudes toward mental health, treatment of mental disorders, etc.).

For each item that you have collected, describe and define the concept(s) represented by the item in your own words; do not use any direct quotes, but always reference/cite where the material is coming from - using material without proper citation is plagiarism.

2) Discuss your media item in terms of recent research in abnormal or clinical psychology on the concept. For each media item you must also cite at least one journal article published within the past 15 years (ideally, these will be empirical studies rather than review or theoretical articles). You may NOT reference lectures directly, but you can reference material presented in lectures, just reference the direct source of the lecture material (either the textbook or journal article, **[when in doubt, ask]**). You should cover a variety of concepts. It will be best to choose media items that relate to one specific concept, idea, disorder, treatment, etc.

Your grade will be based on coherence, accuracy, completeness, and conciseness of your description of how each item is related to concepts in abnormal psychology. The written assignments should be no more than **4 pages in length (excluding references and title page)** and formatted according to APA guidelines. **Material over 4 pages will not be read and the paper will be graded accordingly.**

In these assignments students will demonstrate their understanding of topics in abnormal psychology and their ability to apply this material in thinking about a current or possibly new problem. The information in the textbook or discussed in class represents the building blocks students should use to write their papers. Students are expected to read more deeply about each of the topics they have chosen. It is crucial that students cite a reasonable amount of information from their research to support their arguments in each paper. Students should use the papers to demonstrate that they have understood concepts in abnormal psychology, read about the concepts on their own, and gained skills in applying the material.

Specific instructions for term papers:

- The completed assignment will be in essay format with clear introductory and concluding paragraphs.
- Essays must be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, 1 inch margins.
- Length will be approximately 1000 words (4 double-spaced pages, approx. 250 words per page)
- APA style should be used for citations and reference list
- Proofread your paper for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Your paper will be graded on style as well as content. It must be grammatical and clearly organized.

- **Include a title page with the title of the essay, your name, course name, instructor's name, and due date** (title page and reference page are not included in the number of pages and word count).
- Submit copies of, links to, or clear summaries of the **media material in an appendix** so markers can peruse or see the items you are discussing – do not use media that you cannot submit or easily describe, preferably in a short paragraph.
- There are **two essays due on February 12 and March 18, respectively to the appropriate D2L box by 6:10 PM on the due date or prior. LATE PAPERS WILL RECEIVE A 10% PENALTY PER DAY INCLUDING WEEKENDS.**

Each assignment is worth **10%** of the final grade for a total of **20%**

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
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A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
M Jan 06	Winter term begins (block week January 6-10)
M Jan 13	Start of Classes
W Jan 15	Introduction and definitions of abnormality; Theoretical perspectives on abnormal behavior, etiology Chap 1 pp. 3-7; Chap.2
W Jan 22	Theoretical perspectives on abnormal behavior, etiology Chap 2
R Jan 23	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
F Jan 24	Last day to add or swap a course
W Jan 29	Classification, assessment of mental disorders, research methods Chap. 3,4
F Jan 31	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.
W Feb 5	Mood disorders and suicide Chap 8
W Feb 12	Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma related disorders Chap. 5 Written assignment #1 due
M Feb 17	Alberta Family Day
Feb 16-22	Term Break, No Classes (University if Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)
W Feb 26	Anxiety, obsessive- compulsive, and trauma related disorders Chap.5 Dissociative disorders
W Mar 4	Mid-term #1 Somatic symptoms and related disorders Chap.6 Psychological factors affecting medical conditions Chap 7
W Mar 11	Psychological factors affecting medical conditions Chap 7 Eating disorders Chap 10
W Mar 18	Substance-related and addictive disorders Chap 11 Personality disorders Written assignment #2 due
W Mar 25	Mid-term exam #2 Sexual disorders (Dysfunction) and gender identity disorders Chap. 13
W Apr 1	Sexual disorders: paraphilias and gender identity/gender dysphoria Chap 13
W Apr 8	Therapies (treatment of mental disorders) Chap.17

F Apr 10	Good Friday, No Classes
M Apr 13	Non-Instructional Day, University Open
W Apr 15	Last day of classes Prevention and mental health promotion in the community Chap.18
Apr. 18-29	Final Exam Period
R Apr 30	End of Term

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2020**.

Seating During Exams

Instructors and exam invigilators are free to ask students to move seats before an exam begins or even during an exam. Students must comply with this request and refusal to do so may warrant a charge of academic misconduct.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. A student may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request for a make-up exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department** <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. **If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will **NOT** be considered by the

department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 23, 2020**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 24, 2020**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15, 2020**.