

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 35000-03

Course # 22645

Spring 2011

PROFESSOR:

Jody Ross, Ph.D.

Email: rossj@ipfw.edu

(We will not use blackboard email.)

Office: NF 388C (481-6396)

► **Note:** When you email, please include “**PSY350**” in the subject line ◀

Office Hours: Tuesday 3pm to 4pm

Thursday 3pm to 4pm

(or by appointment)

CLASS TIME:

Tuesday & Thursday

4:30 – 5:45pm (KT 146)

TEXT: Durand, M. & Barlow, D. (2010). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 5th Edition. Cengage.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will examine psychological disorders from a multidimensional perspective. Students will gain an appreciation for psychological, biological, social, and life-span developmental influences on mental health and mental illness. The introductory chapters of our text will provide students with a historical context and basic understanding of the terminology, methodology, and theoretical principles associated with the study of psychopathology. We will then examine the psychological disorders, as described in the 4th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) with a focus on clinical description and the DSM-IV criteria, etiology, and treatment. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the study of abnormal psychology through a variety of readings, writings, class lectures, and class discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students who successfully complete this course will

1. Acquire an appreciation for and understanding of the major theoretical perspectives that guide the study of abnormal behavior
2. Understand the ways in which psychological principles and research methods apply to the study of psychopathology
3. Become familiar with the psychological disorders, as described in the DSM-IV, and current knowledge about their etiology and treatment
4. Be able to think critically about the material and apply psychological principles to real-world problems and experiences

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Please keep in mind that you are sharing a learning environment with others. Any behavior that could potentially disrupt the learning of another student (e.g., holding personal conversations during lecture) is unacceptable and students engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave class. You are expected to be on time for each class and to attend the entire class. If you must leave early, please let me know ahead of time and sit at the front of the class to minimize disruption to your fellow students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams (400 points total): There will be four multiple-choice exams, each covering approximately 1/4 of the course material. All four exams will count toward your final grade. You are expected to take the exams as scheduled. If you have an emergency and are unable to attend class on an exam day, please contact me as soon as possible (and by the end of that day at the latest) to explain your situation. With proof of emergency a student will be allowed to take one make-up exam. Make up exams will be administered at the end of the semester, after the final exam, and will be a different format (essay and short answer) than the regular semester exams. Exams will cover both the assigned chapters in your text and material discussed in lecture. You are responsible for the material in our text even if it is not discussed in class. Additionally, information presented in class that is not in the textbook may be included on the tests. You are responsible for getting the notes for missed classes from other students in the class (not from me).

Final Paper (100 points total)

The final paper will be an in-depth analysis of a single psychological disorder (**not** a class of disorders) covered in one of the following chapters: 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, or 12. You will be asked to select a character (from a movie, novel, or play) who you think meets criteria for one of these disorders. Once you have selected your character and disorder, discuss the symptoms of the disorder (**do not** copy directly from the book or the DSM) and why you believe your selected character meets criteria for this disorder (or why you realized they do not, after close examination). Is this character typical of individuals with the disorder? Discuss the etiology of your selected disorder and the kinds of intervention(s) that might be used to treat the disorder.

The due date for your paper will depend on the disorder you select (see course schedule below). Your final paper should be four to six pages (max) typed, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman (or comparable) font, with 1 inch margins. Papers must be submitted in class; electronic copies will not be accepted. Late papers will lose 10 points per day late.

In-Class Writing & Critical Thinking Assignments (approximately 75 points total)

Throughout the semester there will be roughly 5 in-class activities which will require you to turn in written work at the end of that class period, or, for some activities, at the beginning of the next class. Each assignment will be worth 10 to 20 points. These assignments cannot be made up or turned in late, even if you are absent from class.

Attendance and Participation

Although attendance will not be formally taken, your attendance and class participation will be noted. You are expected to attend each class and to participate regularly in class discussions. At the end of the semester, if your grade is within 0.9 points of a higher letter grade and you have attended all or nearly all class meetings **and** have contributed a substantial amount of high quality discussion, I will round your grade up to the higher letter grade.

Academic Integrity: Violating academic integrity is considered a serious offense by the university and is treated accordingly. Violation of academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: cheating on an exam, having unauthorized possession of exams, working with another student on individual assignments, and submitting the work of another person as your own (plagiarism). You cannot copy and paste from any source, even one you cite, without using quotation marks to indicate that you are quoting directly. Academic dishonesty may result in, at the very least, a failing grade for that particular exam/assignment or failing the entire course.

GRADING CRITERIA

Points Breakdown

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams (4 at 100 points each)	400
Final Paper	100
*In-Class Writing & Critical Thinking	75

Total = 575 points

* Total points for in-class writing and critical thinking assignments are approximate.

Letter Grades Will Be Assigned As Follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = less than 60%

COURSE SCHEDULE: The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as necessary. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class.

WEEK	TOPIC	CHAPTER
1: Jan. 11 th	- Syllabus & Introduction - Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	1
2: Jan. 18 th	- An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	2
3: Jan. 25 th	- An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology - Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis	2 3
4: Feb. 1 st	- Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis	3
5: Feb. 8 th	► EXAM 1 – TUESDAY FEB. 8TH ◀ - Anxiety Disorders	1, 2, 3 4
6: Feb. 15 th	- Anxiety Disorders - Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	4 5
7: Feb. 22 nd	- Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders - Mood Disorders & Suicide	5 6
8: Mar. 1 ST	- Mood Disorders & Suicide - Paper Due Mar. 1st (if selected disorder is in chapter 4 or 5)	6
9: Mar. 8 th	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
10: Mar. 15 th	► EXAM 2 – TUESDAY MAR. 15TH ◀ - Eating & Sleep Disorders	4, 5, 6 8
11: Mar. 22 nd	- Eating & Sleep Disorders - Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	8 9
12: Mar. 29 th	- Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders - Personality Disorders	9 11
13: Apr. 5 th	- Personality Disorders ► EXAM 3 – THURSDAY APRIL 7TH ◀	11 8, 9, 11
14: Apr. 12 th	- Schizophrenia & Other Psychotic Disorders	12
15: Apr. 19 th	- Developmental and Cognitive Disorders - Paper Due Apr 19th (if disorder is in chapter 6, 8, 9, 11, or 12)	13
16: Apr. 26 th	- Substance-Related and Impulse-Control Disorders - Physical Disorders & Health Psychology	10 7
17: May 2 - 8	► Final Exam ◀ See IPFW Final Exam Schedule: http://www.ipfw.edu/academics/calendar/finals/	7, 10, 12, 13