

**Sam Houston State University**  
**Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 3331.01)**  
**Fall 2017**

**Instructor:** Chelsea Ratcliff, Ph.D.  
**Classroom:** College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Room 090 (CHSS 090)  
**Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment

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### **Texts**

Beidel, Deborah, Bulik, Cynthia, and Stanley, Melinda. (2017) *Abnormal Psychology: A Scientist-Practitioner Approach* (4th ed). Hoboken, NJ: Pearson, ISBN-9780134631929

### **Course Description**

This course includes an introduction to behavioral disorders. Biological and social factors in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychopathology are studied. This course will include lectures, in-class discussions, instructional and demonstrational videos, and in-class activities. A major goal of the course is to promote greater awareness and knowledge of psychopathology in hopes that we can reduce the suffering and stigma associated with mental disorders.

**Prerequisites:** Three (3) hours of PSYC

**Credit:** Three (3) credit hours

### **Course Objectives**

**Essential Goal:** Learning fundamental principles and theories related to abnormal psychology

- Learn psychological principles and phenomena involved in the development and maintenance of abnormal behavior
- Prepare students for further study in abnormal psychology

**Important Goal:** Gaining factual knowledge (such as terminology, classifications, methods, and trends) related to abnormal psychology

- Learn about the etiology, nature, and prevalence of psychological disorders
- Learn the methods and findings of important research related to abnormal

## behavior and psychopathology

**Important Goal:** Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view related to abnormal psychology

- Learn to think critically about abnormal psychology, particularly when faced with opinions and ideas related to psychopathology in the popular media and other sources of information
- Learn to use knowledge of abnormal psychology when critically evaluating ideas and research in other branches of psychology or other disciplines of study

## Course Requirements/Expectations

Students are encouraged to discuss related topics in the media and elsewhere during class sessions. Please consider that all material presented in class, both in lecture format as well as in videos, etc., will be “fair game” for your exams. Consequently, attendance is important for success.

## Grading Plan

**Exams:** There will be three exams in this course. All exams will be multiple-choice format. Each exam and the term paper will be worth 100 points.

**Make-up Exams:** There will be no make-up exams. The only exception to this policy is severe medical emergency (e.g., hospitalization) or death in the family. If this is case, you *must notify the instructor within 24 hours of the exam*. Also, you must provide the instructor with adequate documentation of your emergency, which will be verified. Format of the make-up exams (e.g., multiple choice, essay/short-answer questions, essay) is at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to take an exam or the final exam will result in a score of zero for the missed exam/final.

**Movie Project:** This group assignment will involve watching and presenting a film (from a list of suggestions or after consultation with the professor) that depicts some form of psychopathology. This assignment allows you to assume the role of diagnostician and to apply the knowledge you have gained in this course to a practice patient. It is also geared to encourage students to think critically about popular depictions of psychology and mental health. More detailed information on this project will be provided on Blackboard, and will be discussed in class. Groups will be made up of 6 people, and will be assigned on Blackboard.

**Participation** Listening to a lecture for 50 minutes is TOUGH! So, each class will include several opportunities to think, write, and discuss the class material. Please bring paper and a writing instrument to every class. Your written responses to in-class discussion questions will be collected and graded for participation.

**Extra Credit:** If you wish to earn extra credit in this course, you can do so **ONLY** by participating in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy. There are many different options posted on the PeRP system throughout the semester, however, all extra credit must be completed and assigned to the course by 5 pm on the last day of classes (December 1, 2017). Any credits assigned after this time will not be counted towards your grade. Each study on the PeRP system is assigned a number of “credits” and each credit you complete, up to 3, will be added to your overall grade at the end of the semester. So, for example, if you are at an 87 and you completed 3 credits on the PeRP system, you will end the course with a 90. Keep in mind that if you sign up for a study and you “no-show”, you will receive negative credits. Negative credits on the PeRP system will count against your overall grade. More details about this system, and instructions about how to get started, are available at the departmental website <http://shsu.sona-systems.com/>.

### **Grades:**

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 25%

Exam 3: 20%

Movie Project: 20%

Participation: 15%

Course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A = > 93%  
A- = 90-92%  
B+ = 87-89%,  
B = 83-86%  
B- = 80-82%  
C+ = 77-79%,  
C = 73-76%  
C- = 70-72%  
D+ = 67-69%,  
D = 63-66%  
D- = 60-62%  
F = 59% and below

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected since tests will include both the readings and lectures. Attendance is necessary for your participation grade; however, this class does *not* carry a “failure due to absence” policy. Keep in mind that attendance in this class is highly correlated with your overall grade (including grades on exams!).

### **Electronic Devices**

Students are *prohibited* from using or having in sight any electronic devices, which includes all cell phones, laptops, iPods (and similar devices), etc. All such devices should be placed in a

silent or vibrate mode and stored out of sight during class to ensure no disruptions. See the instructor if you would like to have an exception to this prohibition considered.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with subsection 5.32 of *The Student Guidelines* of Sam Houston State University, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

### **Religious Holidays**

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for the absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. *Religious Holy Day* means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center (294-1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with the instructor about how best deal with

the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

**Note:** No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center and there are no retroactive accommodations.

### **Classroom Code of Conduct**

Students should review, and adhere to, the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf>.

Guidelines for this course are detailed below:

1. *Arriving late to class.* Don't do it...its disturbing to me and other students.
2. *Talking to neighboring students during class while someone else is talking to the group.* This is disrespectful and you may miss important points.
3. *Not visiting with me after you have failed an exam.* Please make an appointment to talk with me if you have failed an exam.
4. *Leaving class early.* This is very distracting to me and other students. If you leave class early, please clear it with me ahead of time.
5. *Allowing your cell phone to ring during class or playing on your cell phone or computer.*

Please see the SHSU Syllabus Guidelines for additional guidance on classroom policies:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Course Outline**  
 \*\*\*Schedule is subject to change\*\*\*

Date			Topic
August	23	W	Introduction to Course, Historical and Modern Perspectives
	25	F	Models of Abnormal Psychology
September	28	M	<i>Campus closed</i>
	30	W	<i>Campus closed</i>
	1	F	<i>Campus closed</i>
	4	M	<i>Labor Day – No class</i>
	6	W	Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology
	8	F	Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology
	11	M	Assessment and Diagnosis
	13	W	Assessment and Diagnosis
	15	F	<b>EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-3)</b>
	18	M	Anxiety, Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders
	20	W	Anxiety, Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders
	22	F	Obsessive-Compulsive and Impulse Control Disorders
	25	M	Obsessive-Compulsive and Impulse Control Disorders
	27	W	Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders
	29	F	Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders
October	2	M	Bipolar and Depressive Disorders
	4	W	Bipolar and Depressive Disorders
	6	F	Feeding and Eating Disorders
	9	M	Feeding and Eating Disorders
	11	W	Gender Dysphoria, Sexual Dysfunction, Paraphilic Disorders
	13	F	Gender Dysphoria, Sexual Dysfunction, Paraphilic Disorders
	16	M	Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
	18	W	Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
	20	F	<b>EXAM II (Chapters 4-10)</b>
	23	M	Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders
	25	W	Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders
	27	F	Personality Disorders
November	30	M	Personality Disorders
	1	W	Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct Disorders
	3	F	Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct Disorders
	6	M	Movie Presentations
	8	W	Movie Presentations
	10	F	Movie Presentations
	13	M	Movie Presentations
	15	W	Movie Presentations
	17	F	Movie Presentations
	20	M	Legal and Ethical Issues
	22	W	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No class</i>
	24	F	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No class</i>
December	27	M	Legal and Ethical Issues
	29	W	Careers in Mental Health
	1	F	<b>EXAM III (Chapters 11-13, 15)</b>