

**Sam Houston State University**  
**Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 3331-01)**  
**Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Jorge G. Varela, Ph.D.  
**Classroom:** College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Room C-90 (CHSS C-90)  
**Time:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.  
**Office** College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Room 377 (CHSS 377)  
**Phone:** 936-294-4161 (office)  
936-294-1174 (department)  
**Email:** jgv002@shsu.edu  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

---

**Required Texts/Readings**

Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., & Hofmann, S. G. (2018). Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to mental illness and behavioral disorders, including the psychological, biological and social factors involved in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychopathology. This is primarily a lecture course, although students are highly encouraged to ask questions and be active participants in the learning process. In addition, this course will incorporate other instructional formats, such as in-class discussions, instructional and demonstrational videos, and in-class activities, to enhance the learning experience.

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

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

**Course Objectives**

**Essential Goal:** Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, 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 read all assigned material prior to class and come prepared to discuss related topics in the media and elsewhere. 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.

### Grading Plan

**Exams:** Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on three exams and a noncumulative final. *All material presented in class (lectures, guest speakers, videos, demonstrations, etc.) is “fair game” for your exams.* All exams will be multiple-choice format. Each exam and the final 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/shortanswer 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.

**Grades:** Course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

**A = 89.50 to 100**

**B = 79.50 to 89.49**

**C = 69.50 to 79.49**

**D = 59.50 to 69.49**

**F = 59.49 and below**

**Attendance Policy**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected and is important to success. Sam Houston State University policy is that no student will be penalized for three or fewer hours of absence. However, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence. Students may miss one class without penalty to their grade. *Missing two classes, however, may impact your grade for the class.* The three hours of absence provided by university policy should be used carefully for serious illness and emergencies. If a student has a conflict with a scheduled class, he or she must meet with the instructor to determine an appropriate plan of action. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor regarding make-up work, and arrangements must be arranged with the instructor *prior* to the absence or *as soon as possible* after the absence, in the case of an emergency.

### Electronic Devices

Students are *prohibited* from using or having in sight any electronic devices, which includes all cell phones, laptops, iPods (and similar devices), Blackberry devices, pagers, 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. The use of any electronic device during exams is *strictly prohibited* and such devices should be stored securely during examinations. Even the visible presence of such an electronic device *may result in a score of zero* for an exam. See the instructor if you have a formal classroom accommodation that allows for the use of an electronic device.

**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 should consult with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) located in the North Annex of the Lee Drain Building (936-294-3512). 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 SSD and consult 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>.

For more information on these policies, please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Instructor Evaluation**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation toward the end of the semester.

## Course Outline

				Date	Description	Reading
January	17	Wednesday	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology			Chapter 1
	19	Friday	History of Abnormal Psychology			Chapter 1
	22	Monday	Paradigms in Psychology			Chapter 1
	24	Wednesday	Paradigms in Psychology			Chapter 1
	26	Friday	Research Methods			Chapter 4
	29	Monday	Research Methods			Chapter 4
	31	Wednesday	Physiology of the Nervous System			Chapter 2
February	2	Friday	Physiology of the Nervous System			Chapter 2
	5	Monday	Clinical Psychological Assessment			Chapter 3
	7	Wednesday	Clinical Psychological Assessment			Chapter 3
	9	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>			<b>CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3, &amp; 4</b>
	12	Monday	Mood Disorders			Chapter 7
	14	Wednesday	Mood Disorders			Chapter 7
	16	Friday	Suicide			Chapter 7
	19	Monday	Anxiety Disorders			Chapter 5
	21	Wednesday	Anxiety Disorders			Chapter 5
	23	Friday	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder			Chapter 5
March	26	Monday	Trauma-Related Disorders			Chapter 5
	28	Wednesday	Trauma-Related Disorders and			Chapter 5
			Somatic Symptom-Related Disorders			Chapter 6
	2	Friday	Somatic Symptom-Related Disorders			Chapter 6
	5	Monday	Dissociative Disorders			Chapter 6

	7	Wednesday	Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6
	<b>9</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 5, 6, &amp; 7</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>	----
	<b>14</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>	----
	<b>16</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>	----
	19	Monday	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
	21	Wednesday	Eating Disorders and Sleep Disorders	Chapter 9
	23	Friday	Sleep Disorders	Chapter 9
	26	Monday	Sexual Dysfunctions	Chapter 10
	28	Wednesday	Sexual Dysfunctions and Gender Dysphoria	Chapter 10
	30	Friday	Paraphilic Disorders	Chapter 10
April	2	Monday	Sexual Offenders	Chapter 10
	4	Wednesday	Substance Use Disorders	Chapter 11
	<b>6</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Substance Use Disorders <i>(Last day to drop with a “Q”)</i>	Chapter 11
	<b>9</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 9, 10, &amp; 11</b>
	11	Wednesday	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
	13	Friday	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
	16	Monday	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
	18	Wednesday	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 13
	20	Friday	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 13
	23	Monday	Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 15
	25	Wednesday	Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 15
	27	Friday	Ethical and Legal Issues	Chapter 16
	30	Monday	Ethical and Legal Issues	Chapter 16

May	2	Wednesday	Psychopathology and Criminal Justice	Chapter 16
	4	Friday	Psychopathology and Criminal Justice	Chapter 16
	8	<b>WEDNESDAY FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>CHAPTERS 12, 13, 15, &amp; 16</b>