

Sam Houston State University
Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 3331.02)
Spring 2018

Instructor: Temilola Salami, Ph.D.
Classroom: College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Room C090 (CHSS C090)
Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:20 p.m.
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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 be aware of and 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

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. However, only your two highest grades will count towards your final grade. Students who are happy with their grade on the first two exams can opt out of taking the third exam. It is strongly recommended that students opt to take the third exam if they do not receive an “A” on their prior two exams. All exams will be multiple-choice format.

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 the 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.

Movie Project: This group assignment will involve watching and writing a group paper on a film (from a list of suggestions) 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 towards encouraging 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 5-6 people, and will be assigned on Blackboard. You will have three designated class periods to work on the movie project with your group. However, it is important to work on the project outside of this time as well. The final project will be due as a group on Blackboard on April 26th at 11:59pm.

Participation Listening to a lecture for 80 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 and activities will be collected for participation. Given that the last exam is optional, to ensure student participation during the last 3rd of class, participation will be more heavily weighted during this period such that a total of 5 points will count towards the first 2/3^{rds} of class, and 10 points towards the last third.

Extra Credit: If you wish to earn extra credit in this course, you can do so 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 (May 3, 2018). 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: 30%

Exam 2: 30%

Exam 3: optional but strongly recommended

Movie Project: 25%

Participation: 15% (5 points for the first 2/3rds of class; 10 points for the last 1/3rd of class)

Course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected since tests will focus on the information from the lectures and class discussions. 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

With the exception of laptops for taking class notes, students are *prohibited* from using or having in sight all other electronic devices, which includes all cell phones, 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.

For more information on these guidelines link to <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Classroom Code of Conduct

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 silence all electronic devices during class time.

Course Outline

Schedule is subject to change

Date			Topic
Week 1	Jan 18	H	Introduction to course, Chapter 1 (Historical & Modern Perspectives)
Week 2	23	T	Chapter 1 (Continued)
	25	H	Chapter 2 (Research Methods)
Week 3	30	T	Chapter 3 (Assessment & diagnosis)
	Feb 1	H	Chapter 7 Bipolar and Depressive Disorders <i>Pick a Movie by End of Class + Group Contract</i>
Week 4	6	T	Chapter 7 (Continued)
	8	H	Chapter 5 (Obsessive-Compulsive & Impulse Control Disorders)
Week 5	13	T	Chapter 5 (Continued)
	15	H	Exam I (Chapters 1-3,5,7)
Week 6	20	T	Chapter 4 (Anxiety, Trauma & Stressor-Related Disorders)
	22	H	Chapter 4 (Continued)
Week 7	27	T	Chapter 6 (Somatic Symptoms and Dissociative Disorders)
	Mar 1	H	Chapter 6 (Continued)
Week 8	6	T	<i>1st Movie Project Meeting Day (have already watched movie)</i>
	8	H	Chapter 11 (Schizophrenia Spectrum & Other Psychotic Disorders) <i>Movie Summary and Critic Due by Midnight</i>
Week 9	13-15	T/H	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	20	T	Chapter 11 (Continued)
	22	H	Chapter 8 (Feeding and Eating Disorders)
Week 11	27	T	<i>2nd Movie Project Meeting Day</i>
	29	H	Chapter 8 (continued) <i>Movie Project Advice to Director about Changes Due by Midnight</i>
Week 12	Apr 3	T	Chapter 9 (Gender Dysphoria, Sexual Dysfunctions & Paraphilic Disorders)
	5	H	EXAM II (Chapters 4,6,8,9,11)
Week 13	10	T	Chapter 10 (Substance-Related & Addictive Disorders)
	12	H	Chapter 10 (Continued)
Week 14	17	T	Chapter 13 (Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct, & Elimination Disorders)
	19	H	Chapter 14 (Aging & Neurocognitive Disorders)
Week 15	24	T	<i>3rd Movie Project Meeting Day</i>
	26	H	Chapter 12 (Personality Disorders) <i>Final Movie Project Assignment Due by Midnight</i>
Week 16	May 1	T	Chapter 12 (Continued)
	3	H	EXAM III (Chapters 10,12-14)