

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Psychology and Philosophy

Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 3331.04)

Spring 2018: 3:00-4:20 PM Monday & Wednesday
CHSS C090

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Office Hours: Monday 9:15AM-3:00PM, by appointment

TEXT

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

COURSE OVERVIEW

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

- **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
- **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
- **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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance is expected. SHSU 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 absences. Of course, students must certainly sometimes be absent for various legitimate reasons. Therefore, students may miss up to three hours of class without penalty to their grade, but missing more could result in a reduced grade for the class. If a student has a conflict with a scheduled class, they must communicate with the instructor to determine appropriate action. If you have to be absent, be sure you have arranged for a peer to obtain materials for you. ***Your course instructor will periodically take attendance and it will be factored into final grades in the form of participation grades.***

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are prohibited from using or having in sight any electronic devices, which includes all cell phones, laptops, iPods, iPads, etc. All such devices should be placed on 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

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in 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. ***In this course, any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the relevant assignment/test.***

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that 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. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University 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 register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). 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 you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. ***No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.***

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

CLASS SLIDES & OTHER MATERIALS

Class slides will be made available on Blackboard. Other handouts will not be available except on the date initially provided.

PROFESSIONALISM

Attendance, punctuality, the quality of your interactions with colleagues, supervisors, and examinees, as well as the quality and timeliness regarding completing assignments, all determine your professionalism. Students should review, and adhere to, the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>

Guidelines for this course are detailed below:

- Arriving late to class. Don't do it. It's disturbing to me and other students.
- Talking to neighboring students during class while someone else is talking to the group. This is disrespectful and you may miss important points.
- Not visiting with me after you have failed an exam. Please make an appointment to talk with me if you have failed an exam.
- 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.
- Allowing your cell phone to ring during class or playing on your cell phone or computer.

GENERAL POLICIES

Additional details on the aforementioned policies can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Exams:** There will be four exams in this course. All exams will be multiple-choice format. Each exam will be worth 100 points. 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.
 - **You will need to purchase and bring a blank scantron form to each exam.**
 - **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 without proper excuse will result in a score of zero for the missed exam/final.***
- **Movie Project:** This group assignment is worth 100 points for each group member. The project 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 6-7 people, and will be assigned on Blackboard.
- **Participation:** Active class participation in class discussions and presentations is expected. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings prior to class and to be able to discuss these reading in class. Each class will include several opportunities to discuss the class material. Please bring paper and a writing instrument to every class. ***Each class session, about five of you will be randomly selected and asked to respond to in-class discussion questions. This opportunity is worth 100 points; if you are not present or are unable to participate due to lack of preparation, you will earn a grade of zero. You have three opportunities to earn your participation points.***
- **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. ***All extra credit must be completed and assigned to the course by 5pm on the last day of classes (May 2, 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/>

COURSE GRADING

Course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

Course Activity	Possible Points	Grading Scale
Exam 1	= 100	A = > 93%
Exam 2	= 100	A- = 90-92%
Exam 3	= 100	B+ = 87-89%
Exam 4	= 100	B = 83-86%
Movie Project	= 100	B- = 80-82%
Participation	= 100	
Total	= 600	C+ = 77-79%
		C = 73-76%
		C- = 70-72%
		D+ = 67-69%
		D = 63-66%
		D- = 60-62%
		F = 59% and below

Tentative Schedule

Date		Class Lecture/Activity	Reading	
January	17	Introduction & Careers in Psychology		
	22	Abnormal Psychology, Ethical & Legal Issues	Chapter 1	
	24	Research Methods	Chapter 2	
	29	Assessment & Diagnosis	Chapter 3	
	31	Test 1		
February	5	Anxiety, Trauma, & Stress	Chapter 4	
	7			
	12	Obsessive-Compulsive & Impulse Control	Chapter 5	
	14			
	19	Bipolar & Depressive Disorders	Chapter 7	
	21			
	26	Movie Presentations (6 groups)		
	28	Test 2		
March	5	Feeding & Eating Disorders	Chapter 8	
	7			
	12	Spring Break!		
	14			
	19	Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct, & Elimination	Chapter 13	
	21			
	26	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 10	
	28			
April	2	Movie Presentations (6 groups)		
	4	Test 3		
	9	Somatic Symptom Disorders & Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6	
	11			
	16	Schizophrenia & Psychosis	Chapter 11	
	18			
	23	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12	
	25			
	30	Movie Presentations (6 groups)		
	May	2	Test 4	