

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Kathryn Goel, Ph.D
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Office hours: by appointment

Required Text: Abnormal Psychology; Susan Nolen-Hoeksema (7th edition) and Connect Card

Course Objectives: This course is designed to help broaden your knowledge and conceptual understanding of abnormal psychology. We will primarily focus on the description of mental disorders. However, research and theories concerning etiology and treatment will also be covered. The specific objectives for this course are:

- To become familiar with diagnosable psychopathologies as currently defined by the DSM-IVTR
- To understand different theoretical explanations for mental illness
- To become familiar with different assessment and diagnostic techniques and treatment methods
- To understand the effect of culture and context on our definitions of mental illness
- To understand and engage in discussion regarding the ethical dilemmas associated with treating individuals with severe mental illness

Course Structure: The course will begin with a general overview of the history of mental illness with a brief review of how we, practitioners, assess of mental illness. The following weeks will involve a closer look at the various theoretical models of psychopathology (i.e. biological, cognitive, behavioral) and general principles used to treat disorders based on these orientations. Once a general understanding of mental illness is obtained, the class will delve deeper into a variety of mental disorders that affect both adults and children. Please keep in mind that due to the nature of the course, there is a significant amount of online work as well as expected reading. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all material prior to class.

The course schedule is quite tentative and there is some room allotted for flexibility and tailoring to student interests. If there is a topic you are interested in that is not being covered, please let me know before the first exam and I will do my best to incorporate it into the course.

Course Description: Class will consist of a combination of lecture, video presentations, discussions, and online work

Course Requirements:

- To read all assigned materials prior to each class period
- To be prepared to engage in discussion

Course Grading:

- I. Three Tests:** There will be 3 tests. Test questions will be based on all material presented in lectures (including videos, presentations) and any material covered in the assigned readings. *The exams are not cumulative.* The tests will mostly be in a **multiple-choice format**. The exams are each worth 40 points. Tests cannot be made up except in cases of emergency.
- II. Final exam paper:** Students will be asked to complete a paper comprising of the examination of a case study. The purpose of this assignment is to gain a deeper understanding of the process of case formulation, diagnosis and treatment. The paper is worth 50 points.
- III. Small Group Assignments (ICP) and online assignments:** Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. As each student has had unique experiences with the topics discussed and can bring their own perspective to the discussion, group participation will increase the interest level and depth of the class. In order to encourage participation, there will be small group activities (case studies, etc.) and

discussions throughout the semester. For each of the ICP's, there will be a reading assigned to be read prior to class. These assignments will be provided at least 3 days prior to class. On 5 of these days, five points of credit will be awarded to those who actively participate in the activity/discussion. The lowest score from these days will be dropped (i.e. you can miss one class without penalty). In addition to 20 points for in class assignments, there will be 50 points for assignments completed online throughout the course. A total 70 points for the course can be earned in this manner.

IV. Extra Credit: You have the opportunity to earn up to **10 points of extra credit** by participating in various opportunities available throughout the semester.

V. Missed Classes and Make-up Exams: If you should miss a class, you are responsible to borrow notes from another class member. You will also be held responsible for any changes to the syllabus, which may be announced in class. **The opportunity to make-up a missed exam will only be granted to students with a University-approved excuse or in cases of emergency. Unless your situation is an emergency, you need to inform me about missing the exam before it occurs.**

VI. Grading:

Exam 1	=	40 pts
Exam 2	=	40 pts
Exam 3	=	40 pts
Final Paper	=	50 pts
Participation/Activities	=	70 pts
Total	=	240 pts
Extra Credit	=	10 pts

Grading Scale: All grades will be determined using the following grading scale. No grades will be rounded.

≥223	= A	175-182	= C
216-222	= A-	168-174	= C-
207-215	= B+	158-167	= D+
199-206	= B	151-157	= D
192-198	= B-	144-150	= D-
183-191	= C+	≤ 143 (59%)	= F

Students with Disabilities: I encourage students with disabilities (physical, intellectual, psychological etc.) or other specific needs to contact me early in the semester so I can help you enhance your learning potential in this class. If you have accommodations through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, it is your responsibility to provide the necessary paperwork as early as possible. In addition, please email me a reminder 5-7 days prior to the exam.

Honor System: All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth by the UWSP. Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously and handled in accordance with the provisions established under the honor system. It is each student's responsibility to ensure his or her familiarity with the Honor Code and abide by it at all. Specific provisions of the honor code are listed below:

		<i>Tentative Schedule</i>	
Week	Date	Class Description	Reading
Week 1	9-3	Introduction; Defining abnormal behavior; watch recorded lecture; CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 1	Ch. 1
Week 2	9-10	Theories and Treatment of Abnormality CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 2	Ch. 2
Week 3	9-17	Assessing and Diagnosing Abnormality (<i>ICP</i>)	Ch. 3
Week 4	9-24	Trauma, Anxiety, OCD and Related Disorders CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 3; EXTRA CREDIT REVIEW	Ch 5
Week 5	10-1	EXAM 1	
Week 6	10-8	Mood Disorders CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 4	Ch.7
Week 7	10-15	Schizophrenia CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 5	Ch.8
Week 8	10-22	Somatic Symptoms and Dissociative Disorders CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 6	Ch 6
Week 9	10-29	Eating Disorders EXTRA CREDIT REVIEW	Ch. 12
Week 10	11-5	EXAM 2 (all material covered since exam 1) Sexual disorders (focus on GID) (Ch 13) CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 7	Ch 13
Week 11	11-12	Personality Disorders Online Assignment 8; BPD extra credit Paper topics due	Ch. 9
Week 12	11-19	Substance Use and Gambling Disorders (<i>ICP</i>) CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 9	Ch 14
Week 13	11-26	Disruptive, Impulse-control and conduct disorders CONNECT ASSIGNMENT 10	Ch. 11
Week 14	12-4	Mental Health and the law (<i>ICP</i>)	Ch 16
Week 15	12-11	FINAL EXAM PAPER DUE/ Health Psychology (if time) EXTRA CREDIT REVIEW	
	FINAL	FINAL EXAM TBA	