

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
PSY 469/569
SPRING TERM, 2010
MW 10:11:20
146 Straub

(Check <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/> for updates)

Instructor: Pam Birrell

Office: 205 Straub Hall

e-mail: pbirrell@uoregon.edu

Course Assistants (for contact information and office hours, see Blackboard):

Heather Bell

Amanda Bowden-Gill

Danna Friedman

Maggie Price

Samantha Schulte

Jeremy Swanburg

Brendan Steele

Samantha Allen

Overview

What is Psychopathology? What is normal and abnormal? Who gets to say? What is the science behind psychiatric drugs? Are mental “disorders” diseases of the brain, or “chemical imbalances”? Or are they the result of social problems?

This course presents a twofold view of the field of abnormal psychology: the traditional view and a feminist/postmodern/psychoanalytic/critical view which examines assumptions and procedures of the field from a social, cultural, and historical perspective. The textbook presents the traditional view, and on-line readings will present the critical view. Students will be expected to think critically about both viewpoints, examine their *own* assumptions and the assumptions of the field, and to ask analytical questions.

NOTE: *The course will be critical of the influence of the pharmaceutical industry in the mental health industry. Many of you are taking psychotropic drugs prescribed by your physicians. It is important that if you should decide to stop taking this drug, or change your dose, that you talk to your health care professional **before** doing so. Even though we may be critical of the industry as a whole, you may be greatly helped by what you are taking!*

Contact Hours, Class Attendance, and Comportment

This is not a course to take if you think you will miss more than one class meeting, as class discussions and exercises are crucial to your success in the course. You will be working in small groups in class and asked to complete various activities in your small group. *Your participation is part of the course requirements. Computers may **not** be used during this class.*

Required Readings

Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Readings are to be completed **BEFORE** the Monday class meeting for which they are assigned. There are two required text books, available at the bookstore, along with on line readings available on the Blackboard website. This course has a serious amount of reading and you will not be able to do well on the quizzes or essays if you do not do the reading.

Required Texts

Chapters from Halgin-Whitbourne (2010), *Abnormal Psychology*, 6th edition, McGraw Hill. *Available in the bookstore!*

Bentall, R.P.(2009) *Doctoring the Mind: Is our current treatment of mental illness really any good?* NYU Press.

Weekly on-line readings posted on the Blackboard website.

Grading:

Your grade will be computed by combining your scores in the following overall categories for a total of 200:

Points	Course Work
75	3 quizzes, 25 points each
80	Discussion Essays (8 essays; each worth 10 points) <i>Drop the lowest score; 10 points for turning them all in.</i>
40	Final Paper/Project
25	Participation (in-class small group <i>and</i> Discussion Board)
220	Total
(EC)	Also up to 20 points extra credit potential (see below)

Final letter grades will be approximately determined from point totals as follows:

points	letter grade
198-220	A
176-197	B
154-175	C or P
132-143	D
Below 131	F

Based on the actual distribution of final grades, *this criterion might be relaxed, but not stiffened.*

Quizzes: 75 points

Three quizzes will be given. Each exam will be worth 25 points. The quizzes will be structured to assess your knowledge of the readings, in-class films and lectures, and class discussions. They will be short answer questions that will primarily pertain to the readings assigned for the weeks in which the quiz is given. Other questions will pertain to the previous weeks' readings, classroom discussion, lecture, and/or demonstrations. Sometimes a question will refer to material covered earlier in the course, or issues discussed in our class email discussion. If you have been to class, done the readings, and written the essays, you should be in good shape for the quizzes.

Discussion Essays and Questions: 80 points

This course is designed to encourage students to read the material and learn to ask important questions of the readings and themselves. I will post specific essay topics and prompts each week to guide your reading of the readings for that week (see Blackboard for the questions to address). One of the most important parts of your essay will always be the **questions** that you come up with to interrogate the material. Each essay should show you have put thought into the reading material, reflected on the meaning of the material to you and your life and how it might affect society in general. Essays must be typed (or computer printed) and one essay must be turned in on the 2nd through the 9th Mondays at the *beginning of class*. ***Please do not email essays!*** If you absolutely cannot type or computer-print your essay, you must write it very neatly on nice paper (e.g.: no pages written from a spiral notebook!). Each essay will be worth up to 10 points. *A point will be subtracted for each day late starting after class on Monday. Your lowest score will be dropped and there will be 10 points for turning them all in!*

Final Paper: 40 points

The final project in this class will be one of the following:

- a *critical* paper on a particular “disorder” from a cross-cultural or historical perspective. This would include alternative views of the “disorder”, such as a power analysis, a deconstruction of assumptions, etc.
- a research proposal from a critical perspective, **OR**
- a critical case study on a famous person, someone you know, or yourself.

The paper should be at least 8 pages long and have 5 peer-reviewed references **NOT** from the course reading list (it may include class readings over and above those 5). The paper may also be in the form of a power point presentation. It **MUST** contain a notes sections equivalent to the 8 page paper! You may also choose to do the power point in groups of 2. In that case, it should be double the information and length!

The final project is due on May 31st, 2010.

Participation 25 points

Participation is crucial in this course. Participation includes in class discussion, extra assignments (TBA), and on-line discussion on Blackboard. You are not *required* to post anything on the on-line discussion, although you may earn participation credit by posting valuable contributions. You are required to read the Discussion boards at least twice a week. In-class participation will largely be in the form of small groups. Extra Assignments will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. ***It is important to note that coming to class and participating there is NOT enough to earn all the points here. Participation on-line and in the extra assignments is also necessary.***

On-Line discussion

We will have an electronic discussion as part of this course on the Blackboard discussion forum. You are expected to read the on-line discussions. Posting your own messages is optional, but will count for participation credit if your messages are thoughtful and original. The on-line discussion will be an open-ended discussion based on student interests and class discussions, and on the following:

Extra Credit Up to 20 points

Extra Credit can be earned in a variety of ways up to 20 points total. If you make especially valuable contributions to class discussion, or if you make especially valuable contributions to the on-line discussion, you may earn extra points. Or you can get extra credit for a particularly terrific paper. This might include a special presentation, if you are interested. In general, if you do something creative, special, contributive, and above-and-beyond the course requirements, you may earn extra credit. One of the best ways to earn extra credit is to bring in a videotape of a TV program, movie excerpt, etc., that illustrates points made in class and mental health ideas in our culture, or in other cultures.

Weekly Schedule: Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines

- Week 1 readings are to be completed before the April 1st class. Week 2-9 readings are to be completed *before* the Monday class that week.
- **HW** refers to the Halgin-Whitbourne text; **DM** refers to the Bentall book
- Readings in Blackboard are **NOT** included in the syllabus. Check Blackboard for those readings!

Week 1: Introduction:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
3/29	[Listed readings do NOT include on line readings! Check Blackboard for those readings!]	Introduction
3/31		
Week 2:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
4/5	HW Chapter 2 DM Chapters 1 & 2	Historical Context, Examining Assumptions ESSAY #1 DUE!
4/7		
Week 3:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
4/12	HW Chapter 4 DM Chapters 3 - 5	Perspectives and Phenomenology ESSAY #2 DUE!
4/14		Quiz #1
Week 4:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
4/19	HW Chapter 5	Anxiety and Panic ESSAY #3 DUE!
4/21		
Week 5:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
4/26	HW Chapter 6	Somatoform and Dissociative Conditions ESSAY #4 DUE!

4/28		
Week 6:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
5/3	HW Chapter 8	Mood “Disorders” and Genetics ESSAY #5 DUE!
5/5		PAPER PLAN DUE! [OPTIONAL—for extra credit!]
Week 7:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
5/10	HW Chapter 9 DM Chapters 6 & 7	Schizophrenia and Psychosis ESSAY #6 DUE!
5/12		QUIZ #2
Week 8:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
5/17	HW Chapter 10	Personality Disorders ESSAY #7 DUE!
5/19		
Week 9:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
5/24	HW Chapters 13 & 14	Substance Abuse and Eating Disorders ESSAY #8 DUE!
5/26		
Week 10:		
day	Readings	Topics and activities
5/31	<i>NO CLASS: Memorial Day</i>	
6/2	DM Chapters 8 - 11	QUIZ #3 FINAL PAPER DUE!

Guidelines for Teaching and Learning at the University of Oregon, Department of Psychology: A Statement of Best Practices and Expectations

As members of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oregon we all share responsibility for creating an atmosphere conducive to learning. A collaborative learning environment both in and outside of the classroom involves the active participation of instructors (including faculty members, adjuncts, and GTFs), teaching assistants, and students. This environment requires:

- the best effort on the part of both instructors and students to enhance the learning experience for the benefit of all persons involved;
- the recognition that all present play important roles; all participants in the learning experience deserve respect for what they bring to it, and all should be sensitive to the importance of others in this process;
- an atmosphere in the classroom of mutual respect for all persons.

See <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/guidelines/> for more information.

Psychology Peer Advisors

The Psychology Peer Advisors are available for academic advising most times of most days. You can find them in room 141 Straub Hall, so be sure to go by to say hello and get advice on courses for psychology majors.

Using Blackboard

The web site for this course was constructed using "Blackboard" software. This allows the web site to be extensive and interactive. On the web site, you will find general announcements for the class, all documents for the course (including this syllabus), lecture notes, on-line discussions, links to relevant web sites, and more. We hope that this web site will be a useful tool for you in learning the material for this class, and in further exploring topics you find interesting. You can get to the course web site by going to <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. If you need help logging in or using Blackboard, see <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/local/usingbb/>. Also you can get help starting by going to the library [Information Technology Center \(ITC\)](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/blackboard.html#help) and/or see <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/blackboard.html#help>.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (Text adopted here as recommended from the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/>).

You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. The software encourages original writing and proper citation by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of websites, essays, journal articles, and other published work. The instructor may in some cases also submit your work to SafeAssign or some other plagiarism analysis and detection program. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to do so.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. [Counselor for Students with Disabilities: Hillary Gerdes, 346-3211, TTY 346-1083, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu]