

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
PSY 469/569
Winter Term 2012
Tu Th 8:30 am – 10:00 am
242 Gerlinger Hall

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

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Overview

What is Psychopathology? What is normal and abnormal? Who gets to say? How does culture influence what will consider abnormal?

In this survey course, you will become familiar with a variety of mental disorders as defined by the *DSM-IV*, which is the manual used for making diagnoses. However, we will also look at what problems there may be with the biomedical model of mental “disorders” and diagnostic categories, emphasizing sociocultural viewpoints and developmental experiences. Finally, we will examine some of the predominant treatments for the major disorders. Do they work? How do they work?

Critical thinking will be emphasized regarding the interpretation of research, the medical model, and treatment options. It is assumed that you have a background in research methods and statistics. If you have not yet taken these courses, you may need to do some extra work to understand some of the material and assignments.

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. Please turn off cell phones during class.*

Required Readings

Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Readings are to be completed BEFORE the Tuesday class meeting for which they are assigned. There is one required textbook, available at the bookstore, along with on line readings available on the Blackboard website.

Required Text

Chapters from Nolen-Hoeksema (2011), *(Ab)normal Psychology*, 5th edition, McGraw Hill. Available in the bookstore. Note: this is a custom printed edition that only includes chapters we will address in class. It should be significantly less expensive than the full version.

Course requirements

For 469 Students: The course requirements include doing the assigned reading, attending class, taking quizzes, writing two papers, and participating in the online discussion. There will not be a final exam.

For 569 Students: The course requirements include all requirements for 469 students as well as an oral presentation of the final project.

Grades: Participation, Quizzes, and Papers

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

Points	Course Work
120	Quizzes, 40 pts each
30	Film analysis
40	Final paper
20	Participation
200	Total

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

Points	Letter grade	What do grades mean at the UO?	Percentage of students likely to get this grade based on prior dept. averages
185-200	A	Excellent	about 27%
160-184	B	Good	about 37%
140-159	C	Satisfactory	about 25%
120-139	D	Inferior	about 5%
Below 120	F	Unsatisfactory	about 1%
	Other (P,I,Y)		about 5%

Note: while we give some -s and +s for grades near a border, we give A+s only rarely. Please see the Psychology Department's guidelines for Teaching and Learning at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/undergraduates/guidelines> for more on grading and expectations.

Exams (60% of final grade): There will be 4 multiple choice type examinations with short answer questions. Each exam will cover material from the lectures and reading assignments for the period immediately preceding the exam. No overall comprehensive final exam is required. It is to your benefit to take all the exams. The lowest of the four scores will be dropped. Therefore, there should be no need for make-up exams even if you miss an exam day due to illness or traveling.

Cross-cultural film analysis (10% of final grade): Watch and critically review a movie that purports to portray a mental illness. The paper should be at least 5 pages long. Address the following questions:

1. Compare and contrast the person's experience with the criteria for his/her diagnosis from the DSM-IV-TR. Do you agree or disagree with the diagnosis? Are there other diagnoses you would consider instead of or in addition to this one? Why?
2. What cultural factors might influence symptom presentation, interpretation by the subject, and diagnosis? Challenge your views on culture! If the character is White, how does White culture influence symptom presentation? How might the character behave differently if s/he were from another culture? You may also address historic era, gender, sexuality, economic class, etc.
3. Include at least 5 peer reviewed journal articles to support your paper not including those from the course reading list. At least 3 of the references should address cross-cultural issues.
4. The paper should be written in APA format, especially the citations and references.

Final Paper: (20% of final grade): It should be about 8-10 pages in length. For more details, see the handout on this assignment that will also be posted on Blackboard.

Participation: (10% of final grade) There will be class worksheets and small assignments throughout the term. These cannot be made up for credit if you are absent. Your participation in Blackboard discussions is also included in this grade.

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.

Course Calendar

Week	Topic	Reading
	Listed readings do NOT include on line readings! Check Blackboard for those readings!	
1: 1/10/12	Introduction & What does (ab)normal mean?	Ch 1
1/12/12		
2: 1/17/12	Perspectives on mental illness	Ch 2 & 3
1/19/12	Assessment and Diagnosis	
3: 1/24/12	Anxiety disorders	Ch 5
1/26/12	Quiz 1	
4: 1/31/12	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Ch 6
	Final Paper topic, questions due	
2/2/12		
5: 2/7/12	Mood disorders & Suicide	Ch 7
02/09/12	Quiz 2	
6: 2/14/12	Personality Disorders	Ch 9
2/11/12	Film Analysis due	
7: 2/21/12	Schizophrenia and psychosis	Ch 8
2/23/12	Quiz 3	
8: 2/28/12	Childhood Disorders (guest speaker: Kate Gilliam)	Ch 10
3/01/12		
9: 3/6/12	Substance Abuse and Eating Disorders	Ch 12 & 14
3/08/12	Quiz 4	
10: 3/13/12	Treatment revisited, Mental Health and the Law	Ch 16
3/15/12	Paper due	

Additional 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) and/or see <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/blackboard.html#help>.

Weather advisory: Just in case there will be a little snow, we will follow the 4J school district closure. Usually, you can find announcements for 4J online or on the radio.