

**PSY 469: Psychopathology**  
University of Oregon, Fall 2015  
4:00-5:20pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays ♦ Class meets in Lillis Hall 111

**Professor:** Robin Hertz, MS      **Email:** [rhertz@uoregon.edu](mailto:rhertz@uoregon.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays 10:00am – 12:00pm      **Office:** STB 339

**Required Texts:** Whitbourne, S. K., & Halgin, R. P. (2013). *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York: McGraw Hill.  
Whitaker, R. (2010). *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*. New York: Broadway Books.  
Supplemental readings will be available on Canvas.

**Course Objectives**

This is an introductory course on psychopathology (a.k.a, mental disorders, mental illnesses, or psychiatric diagnoses). In addition to gaining familiarity with the symptoms of various forms of mental illness, we will also explore various theoretical perspectives and empirical findings pertaining to the causes, mechanisms, and treatments of various mental illnesses. A biopsychosocial perspective will be emphasized and relevant psychobiological, sociocultural, and historical contexts will be examined. We will identify and discuss tensions and connections between various perspectives in the field and analyze the implications of various approaches to understanding and treating psychopathology. Successful completion of the course will also equip you with a basic understanding of the most common clinical interventions used to treat mental disorder, so that you can identify best practices supported by empirical evidence and become a more knowledgeable (potential) consumer of mental health services.

**Assignments and Grading**

Your final grade will consist of the following:

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Weighted percentage of final grade:</b>
Class Participation / Learning Activities	50%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm exam (11/03/15)	15%
Final exam (date TBA)	15%
	<b>100%</b>

Final grades will be assigned as follows: **A+** = 98-100%, **A** = 93-97%, **A-** = 90-92%, **B+** = 88-89%, **B** = 83-87%, **B-** = 80-82%, **C+** = 78-79%, **C** = 73-77%, **C-** = 70-72%, **D+** = 68-70%, **D** = 63-67%, **D-** = 60-62%, **F** = <60%. I use conventional rounding standards (i.e.,  $\geq .5$  rounds up,  $< .5$  rounds down).

**Extra Credit:** *As a general rule of thumb, no extra credit will be offered.* However, I understand that you care about grades, they matter, and life happens. If you think you may be at risk of failing the course, you may raise your final grade to a C- by successfully completing an independent research project. Use of this option is entirely at the instructor's discretion and must be requested by the student. To negotiate the details of such an assignment, please see me no later than 11/27/15.

**Required Course Readings:** To be successful in this course you must complete all assigned readings. I have intentionally assigned a manageable amount of reading (typically ~2 hours of reading per class) that you will hopefully find interesting and thought-provoking. So, please, read.

**Quizzes (20% of final grade):** Each class will include a reading comprehension quiz. These quizzes are designed to keep you accountable to completing required course readings before each class session. ***If you miss a class, you must contact me within 24-hours of the missed class to schedule a make-up quiz.***

**Class Participation / Learning Activities (50% of final grade):** This course emphasizes active learning techniques. The bulk of your points will be earned during the class session through participation in individual and small group activities, small group or whole-class discussions, and brief individual or group written assignments completed during or between class sessions. Points in this category will be earned partially by you just being present and participating **and** by your accurate and thoughtful application of key knowledge and skills. Most activities will take place during class, but some may require you to take time before or after class to prepare for or complete an activity. As such, *your attendance at each class session is essential* (although not technically “mandatory”). If you tend to skip or miss a lot of classes, it will be extremely difficult for you to pass this course, and you might consider dropping it for a different class.

**Study Groups:** On the first day of class you will exchange contact information with 2-4 other students. The purpose of forming these informal small groups is two-fold. First, these are your study buddies. You will be required to meet **at least once** before each exam to review material together, but I encourage you to meet up more frequently according to your group’s needs and preferences. Second, your group members will be the people to contact if you get sick or need to miss a class for any other reason. They can share their notes with you and pass on details about any activities or assignments that you may have missed.

**Exams (30% of your final grade):**

Both the midterm and (non-cumulative) final exam will be in multiple-choice format. No notes or extra materials of any kind will be allowed during the exam, with the exception of translating dictionaries for non-native English speakers. If this applies to you, please speak with me about your circumstances before the midterm.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Respect:** Conveying respect for the opinions of others, even (and especially) if you disagree with them, is an essential social skill that we will cultivate together in this course. I encourage you to ask questions and express your opinions and disagreements openly and respectfully. In the service of creating an environment that supports everyone’s learning, courteous behavior and speech are expected at all times, both online and in class. If at any time you feel that your learning has been disrupted by the conduct of your instructor or another student, please contact me ASAP so that appropriate corrective action can be taken.

**Missed Class/Missed Quiz/Missed Participation Policy:** If you miss a class for any reason you need to be prompt and proactive about catching up on the material you missed. I prefer that you discuss any planned absences with me before you miss a class. Regardless of whether the absence is planned or unplanned, **two steps need to be completed no later than 24-hours after the missed class.** Step 1: Contact me ([rhertz@uoregon.edu](mailto:rhertz@uoregon.edu)), so you can schedule a make-up quiz (otherwise a score of 0 will be entered for that quiz in the grade book). Step 2: Contact at least one member of your study group so you

can obtain class notes and details about any activities you may have missed. You will have until the next class session to complete any activities you missed. Otherwise a score of 0 will be entered for that class session in the grade book.

**Late Assignment Policy:** One letter grade (10%) will be deducted for every 24 hours that an assignment is late (Saturdays and Sundays count). **Late work will not be accepted more than three days after an assignment deadline.** If you think you need an extension on a due date, you must request the extension via email to your instructor **no less than 24 hours** prior to the due date. These requests may or may not be granted. “Emergencies” that interfere with turning work in on time will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating is defined as providing information to, or receiving information from, another person on a quiz, exam, or any assignment I ask you to complete individually. Plagiarism is defined as passing off the work of another as your own, without properly giving credit. This includes, but is not limited to, directly copying others’ writing (in whole or in part) or paraphrasing others’ writing or ideas without citing properly. In these cases “others” can include not just authors of scholarly or mass media work in print or online (journal articles, chapters, newspaper articles, blogs, Wikipedia), but also any other person. The UO library has a helpful page describing when to cite a source: <http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html>. You may consult <http://plagiarism.org> as another great resource for all things related to plagiarism. Understanding the difference between stating common knowledge (e.g., the capital of Montana is Helena) and citing another person’s idea or words is key. When in doubt, cite, and ask me about it. All instances of cheating and plagiarism will result in a **zero** on that assignment and a **mandatory report** to the student Academic Misconduct Office, and may result in failure of the class.

**Email Communication:** I may communicate important, time-sensitive, and/or helpful information to your @uoregon.edu webmail account at any point during the term. **Please check your email at least once per day on weekdays.** You are encouraged to communicate with your instructor via email as well. Please be mindful our course policy of respect applies to email communication. Please allow a minimum of 24 hours before expecting a response. I may not respond to emails on weekends or weekdays between 5pm and 9am.

**Accessibility:** It is my hope, as your instructor, to create an inclusive learning environment for all students, including students with different abilities. Although it is not possible to anticipate all individual needs, I want to eliminate barriers to students’ full participation whenever possible. **Please help me accomplish this goal by communicating with me directly if you anticipate or encounter barriers to full participation.** If you have a documented disability or a non-documented need for accommodations to help meet your learning needs, please communicate with me ASAP. If you are registered with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) please provide me with a copy of your instructor notification letter ASAP and discuss your needs further with me in person, if necessary. These conversations are confidential. If you do not have a notification letter and want to utilize the support and services offered by the AEC, please schedule an appointment with an AEC advisor by phone (541) 346-1155, email [uoac@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoac@uoregon.edu), or visit the AEC office in 164 Oregon Hall.

**Students for Whom English is Not Their First Language:** Foreign language dictionaries are permitted at all times during class and exams. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns.

### COURSE SCHEDULE:

<b>Class # &amp; date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading</b> (W&H=textbook; Aoe= <u>Anatomy of an Epidemic</u> )
1 – 9/29	Welcome /Introduction	
2 – 10/1	What is psychopathology?/ What is mental health?	W&H ch. 1; AoE chs. 1-2;
3 – 10/6	Theoretical Perspectives	W&H ch. 4; AoE ch. 3-5
4 – 10/8	Assessment & Conceptualization	W&H ch. 2-3;
5 – 10/13	Schizophrenia	W&H ch. 9;
6 – 10/15		AoE ch. 6; pp.331-344
7 – 10/20	Anxiety Disorders	W&H ch. 5 (skip pp. 101-102, 115-118)
8 – 10/22		AoE ch. 7
9 – 10/27	Mood Disorders	W&H ch. 8;
10 – 10/29		AoE ch. 8-10
11 – 11/3	MIDTERM EXAM	NONE
12 – 11/5	Disorders Affecting Children	W&H ch. 11; AoE 11-12
13 – 11/10	GROUP DEBATE DAY (details TBA)	AoE 13-15
14 – 11/12	Somatoform Disorders	W&H ch.6
15 – 11/17	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	W&H pp. 101-102, 115-118; Briere & Scott pp. 9-60 (on Canvas)
16 – 11/19	Personality Disorders	W&H ch. 10
17 – 11/24	Sexual Disorders	W&H ch. 7
18 – 11/26	THANKSGIVING	NO CLASS
19 – 12/1	Eating & Substance Use Disorders	W&H ch.13-14
20 – 12/3	Ethics, Values, and Legal Issues	W&H ch.15; AoE ch. 16, epilogue