Psychology of Abnormal Behavior  
PSY 3400-01 (CRN 24557)  
Spring 2013

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phone: 652-7892  
Office: 204A McDonald  
Office Hours: 11-12 MWF, 12-1 TR

Lecture/Discussion: Mon/Wed/Fri  
9:00am to 9:50pm in MacDonald 106


Overview & Course Description: Welcome to Psychology of Abnormal Behavior. This course is an advanced course for students of all disciplines who wish to study the nature of mental disorders. It is particularly important for students majoring in psychology, criminal justice, or education. The course will cover DSM IV-TR diagnostic categories with descriptive information concerning etiology, symptomology and therapeutic strategies. Course requires college reading level skills and will require library research. Prerequisite: Psychology 1010.

Philosophy/Expectations: This course will operate on the philosophy that active engagement with material fosters quality learning. There will be ample opportunity for in-class activities and discussion, both in small groups and with the entire class. Students are expected to read assigned text prior to class and be prepared to participate in class. Students are also expected to coordinate small group work effectively. Students can expect that I will come to class very well prepared and that I will do my very best to conduct the class so that it is interesting, informative, and respectful.

Attendance and participation: With so much of the work for this course done in class, it is vital that you attend every class period. Class starts on the hour. Students who are late to class will not be able to earn full participation points for the day. Any student that is more than 5 minutes late will be considered absent for the class day – do not come in to the class past this point. See Dixie State College of Utah, Policies and Procedures Manual, section 5-23 on ATTENDANCE for further details.
Class Courtesy, Respectful Behavior & Responsibility: We will have a class discussion on the first day about our responsibilities to each other in this learning environment. We will generate expectations for behavior during class that will help us create a positive, responsible, and respectful learning environment. I will protect your right to learn in this class. This may include me asking your peers to leave class if they become disruptive, demonstrate a lack of respect for our collective goals, etc. Some behaviors that are disruptive and disrespectful include (but are not limited to): inappropriate computer and phone usage, talking out of turn or laughing inappropriately, note passing, and sleeping.

Learning Objectives & Outcomes
The primary objective of this course is to provide an overview of mental disorders. By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of major issues and concepts in abnormal psychology.
- Summarize the criteria of abnormality.
- Apply the criteria of abnormality to different sets of symptoms.
- Evaluate the significance of symptoms of a disorder in the sociocultural context.
- Describe the modern explanations of psychopathology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of empirical findings in abnormal psychology.

Assignments: There is an in-class small group presentation on a group of clinical disorders (you will have your individual disorder and will be in a group with others with similar disorders to present). There will be small group discussion within class or disorder questions due in class on most class days. There will also be 3 short paper assignments and one conclusion/revision paper assignment. The short paper assignments are designed to help you prepare to do your in-class presentation. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON TIME TO RECEIVE CREDIT.** No late assignments can be turned in without a valid excuse cleared by the professor. **Note:** Valid excuses are documented excuses that make it clear that it was not possible to come to class (e.g. medical note of serious illness, car repair receipt on the day of class, etc.).

Exams: There will be three Midterm Exams and a Final Exam. The Midterm exams will be at the Testing Center. **The Final Exam is in class on Wednesday, May 1st, from 10am to 12noon.** The exams will consist of short essay and multiple choice items. **No early or makeup tests will be permitted for any of the exams without a valid, documented excuse.**

- You must take each Exam
  - Each Midterm Exam will be given at the Testing Center in the North Plaza. All you need to take with you is your **STUDENT ID**, some blank paper, and a pen. Do not bring any other material (e.g., no books or notes).
  - Testing Center: [http://www.dixie.edu/testing/index.php](http://www.dixie.edu/testing/index.php)
  - You will have 1 day to go to the testing center to complete each exam (check the testing center website listed above for hours). Once you start the exam you will have **90 minutes** to complete it.

- I typically give credit for questions that are answered incorrectly by seventy percent of the class or more.
Tentative Schedule

**Week 1: January 7th thru 11th**
Introductions, Overview of the Course & History  
*Read Chapter 1: The History of Abnormal Psychology*

**Week 2: January 14th thru 18th**
History & Clinical Disorders  
*Read Chapter 1: The History of Abnormal Psychology*  
*Read beginning of Chapter 2: Understanding Psychological Disorders*
**Assignment:** 4 research article abstracts due Wednesday, January 23rd

**Week 3: January 22nd thru 25th**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, the 21st  
Clinical Disorders  
*Read the Chapter on your Disorder*  
*Read remainder of Chapter 2: Understanding Psychological Disorders*
**Assignment:** Brief Paper 1 – Disorder Summary due Monday, January 28th

**Week 4: January 28th thru February 1st**
Diagnosis & Assessment  
*Read Chapter 3: Clinical Diagnosis & Assessment*
**Exam 1 at Testing Center (Friday, Feb. 1st, no class session)**
**Assignment:** Brief Paper 2 – Diagnosis Summary due Monday, February 4th

**Week 5: February 4th thru 8th**
Treatment  
*Read Chapter 4: Foundations of Treatment*
Research  
*Read Chapter 5: Researching Abnormality*
**Assignment:** Brief Paper 3 – Research Summaries due Monday, February 11th

**Week 6: February 11th thru 15th**
Mood Disorders sample presentation  
*Read Chapter 6: Mood Disorders & Suicide*
Presentation Preparation in class on Friday  
**Group Assignment:** Presentation Outline due Friday, February 15th

**Week 7: February 19th thru 22nd**
Presidents’ Day Holiday on Monday, the 18th  
Disorders presentations  
*Readings TBD*
**Assignments:** Disorder Questions due in class on disorder presentation days  
Powerpoint Presentations due on Canvas 24 hours before presentation day
Week 8: February 25th thru March 1st
Exam 2 in Testing Center (Monday, Feb. 25th, no class session)
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Week 9: March 4th thru 8th
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Spring Break: March 11th thru 15th

Week 10: March 18th thru 22nd
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Week 11: March 25th thru 29th
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD
Exam 3 in Testing Center (Friday, March 29th, no class session)

Week 12: April 1st thru 5th
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Week 13: April 8th thru 12th
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Assignment: Short Paper Revisions & Conclusion due Monday, April 15th

Week 14: April 15th thru 19th
Disorders presentations
Readings TBD

Week 15: April 22nd thru 24th
Ethics & Other Topics
Read Chapter 16
Review for Final Exam

Final Exam in Class: 10am to 12noon, Wednesday, May 1st

DISCLAIMER
Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading scale and exam/quiz policy may be subject to change with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate to the instructor.
Earning Points:

A. **Small Group/Class Participation**: earned for participating actively in class discussions and in-class small group assignments. Each activity is worth 5 points. So with 11 activities, this totals to 55 points.

B. **Reference Abstracts**: 5 points.

C. **3 Short Paper Assignments**: Brief (1 ½ to 2 page) papers done outside of class, submitted on Canvas just before class on the due date. Papers are worth 15 points each for a total of 45 points.

D. **Disorder Questions**: questions are to be typed, printed & brought to class on each presentation day (handwritten or late questions will not be accepted). Questions are worth 5 points each. So with 12 presentation class days, this totals to 60 points.

E. **Disorder Presentation & Outline**: Your in-class presentations will be in groups, but you will be scored individually for your contributions. Outlines will receive one score for the entire group. Presentations are worth 80 points (20 point outline & 60 point presentation)

F. **Midterm Exams**: Taken at the Testing Center. Each Midterm is worth 100 points, drop the lowest score, for a total of 200 points.

G. **Comprehensive Final Exam**: Taken in class on Wednesday, May 1st, from 10am-12noon. The final is worth 150 points.

**Summary of Points Possible**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper Assignments &amp; Abstracts</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Activities</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorder Questions</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorder Presentations &amp; Outlines</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>595</td>
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➢ **At no time during the course will grades be curved.** Your point totals determine your grade, not how other people perform.

**Grading Policy**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% - 100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74% - 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% - 93%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% - 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% - 89%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67% - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% - 86%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64% - 66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - 83%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60% - 63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% - 79%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% AND BELOW</td>
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OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Class-work Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Last Day to Add Without Signature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Drop fee begins ($10 per class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Last Day for Refund, Last day to drop without receiving a “W” grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Courses dropped for non-payment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Last Day to ADD/AUDIT Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree Graduation Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Summer Open Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Last Day for Complete Withdrawal</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Class-work Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26, 29-30, May 1-2</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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**e-mail:** You are required to frequently check your Dmail and Canvas message accounts. Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail account, including DSC bills, financial aid/scholarship notices, notices of cancelled classes, reminders of important dates and deadlines, and other information critical to your success at DSC and in your courses. If you don't know how to access your dmail account, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail" from the left column. To locate your dmail username and password, go to www.dixie.edu, and click on "Log in to student services" (upper right corner).

Disability Accommodations: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Classroom expectations: It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the teacher is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: [http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html](http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html)
College resources: Several college resources are available to help you succeed. Check out the links for each one to get more information.

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located on the 4th floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in Room 431. You can visit them online at http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center on the fourth floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in room 421. You can also visit them online at http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

If you need to use a computer to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Smith Computer Center or in the Dixie College library on the second, mezzanine, or third floors of the HCC.

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the North Plaza. You can get information on their website at http://new.dixie.edu/testing/

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Dixie State College Library on the 2nd, and 3rd floors of the Holland Centennial Commons, or go to the library website at http://library.dixie.edu/

College approved absences: Dixie College Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at: http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html

Academic integrity: I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, I will not tolerate cheating, and if I discover that it has occurred, a zero grade will be given for that assignment or exam, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in failing the course. Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains. I have tried to design assignments and exams to minimize the temptation to cheat, but it is not my job to prevent you from cheating. If you cheat and are not caught, it doesn't mean that you "beat the system." It means you violated the Student Code and forfeited your integrity, whether or not you are caught. You will pay the price, sooner or later. (See “Student Code” http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html#appeals).

Student Appeals: Students who believe themselves wrongfully disciplined may appeal those disciplinary actions through the standard grievance procedure. (Policy 5-35)