

# Psychology of Abnormal Behavior

PSY 3400-01, CRN: 45204

Fall 2011



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**Office Hours:** 2-3 MW, 10:30-12:00 TR

**Lecture/Discussion:** Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am to 9:50pm in Hazy 204

**Text:** Rosenberg, R. S. & Kosslyn, S. M. (2011). *Abnormal Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 1-4292-4304-X

**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** in class is a substantial part of graded material. In addition, absences may result in lost learning opportunities, including possible schedule changes and extra credit opportunities. 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. Classroom rudeness will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances and may result in immediate expulsion from the class meeting and/or the course at the professor's discretion. Rudeness can include (but is not limited to): COMPUTER USAGE, LAUGHING, NOTE PASSING, PASSIVELY SITTING, SLEEPING, TALKING, AND TEXTING.

### **Learning Objectives & Outcomes**

The primary objective of this course is to provide an over-view 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 2 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 Final Exam is in class on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** The exams will consist of short answer 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**

- Make-up exams will only be given with a valid, documented excuse.
  - Each Midterm Exam will be given at the Testing Center on the first floor of the Career/Financial Aid Building. All you need to take with you is your **STUDENT ID**. Do not bring any other material (e.g., no books or papers).  
Testing Center: <http://www.dixie.edu/testing/index.php>
  - You will have a window of 3 days 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: August 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>**

Introductions, Overview of the Course & History

*Read Chapter 1: The History of Abnormal Psychology*

### **Week 2: August 29<sup>th</sup> thru September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

History & Clinical Disorders

*Read Chapter 1: The History of Abnormal Psychology*

*Read beginning of Chapter 2: Understanding Psychological Disorders*

**Assignment: 3 research article abstracts due Monday, September 5th**

### **Week 3: September 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Labor Day Holiday, Monday*

Clinical Disorders

*Read remainder of Chapter 2: Understanding Psychological Disorders*

### **Week 4: September 12<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>**

Diagnosis & Assessment

*Read Chapter 3: Clinical Diagnosis & Assessment*

**Assignment: Brief Paper 1 - Disorder Summary due Monday, September 19th**

*Exam 1 at Testing Center (Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> thru Sat. 17<sup>th</sup>)*

### **Week 5: September 19<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Treatment

*Read Chapter 4: Foundations of Treatment*

Research

*Read Chapter 5: Researching Abnormality*

**Assignment: Brief Paper 2 - Research & DSM 5 Summaries due Monday, September 19th**

### **Week 6: September 26<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup>**

Mood Disorders sample presentation

*Read Chapter 6: Mood Disorders & Suicide*

Presentation Preparation in class

*Readings TBD*

**Group Assignment: Presentation Outline due Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **Week 7: October 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Assignments: Disorder Questions due in class on disorder presentation days**

**Powerpoint Presentations due on Blackboard 24 hours before presentation day**

*Exam 2 in Testing Center (Sat 8<sup>th</sup> thru Tues 11<sup>th</sup>)*

**Week 8: October 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

*Semester Break Thursday & Friday*

**Week 9: October 17<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Week 10: October 24<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Week 11: October 31<sup>st</sup> thru November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Week 12: November 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Week 13: November 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

*Exam 3 in Testing Center (Wed 16<sup>th</sup> thru Fri 18<sup>th</sup>)*

**Week 14: November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

*Thanksgiving Break Wednesday thru Friday*

**Week 15: November 28<sup>th</sup> thru December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Disorders presentations

*Readings TBD*

**Week 16: December 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>**

Ethics & Other Topics

*Read Chapter 16*

**Review for Final Exam**

**Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam in Class from 10am to 12noon**

**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 day is worth 5 points. So with 11 non-presentation class days, this totals to 55 points.
- B. Reference Abstracts: 5 points.
- C. 2 Short Paper Assignments: Brief (1 page) papers done outside of class, handed-in at the beginning of class on the due date. Paper 1 is worth 10 points & Paper 2 is worth 20 points for a total of 30 points.
- D. Disorder Questions: questions are to be typed, printed & brought to class on each presentation day. Questions are worth 5 points each. So with 15 presentation class days, this totals to 75 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 for a total of 300 points.
- G. Short Paper Revision & Conclusion: A revision of previous short papers with a conclusion about your disorder presented in class. Worth 30 points.
- H. Comprehensive Final Exam: Taken in class on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final is worth 150 points.

### Summary of Points Possible

Short Paper Assignments	30 points
Small Group Activities are worth 5 points each, times 11 Activities is	55 points
Disorder Questions are worth 5 points each, times 15 days is	75 points
Disorder Presentations & Outlines are worth 80 points	80 points
Midterms are worth 100 points each, times 3 Midterms is	300 points
<u>Final Exam is worth 150 points</u>	<u>150 points</u>
TOTAL:	690 points

- At no time during the course will grades be curved. Your point totals determine your grade, not how other people perform.

### Grading Policy

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	94% - 100%	C	74% - 76%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70% - 73%
B+	87% - 89%	D+	67% - 69%
B	84% - 86%	D	64% - 66%
B-	80% - 83%	D-	60% - 63%
C+	77% - 79%	F	59% AND BELOW

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Aug 22	Class-work Begins
Aug 24	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Aug 29	Drop fee begins (\$10 per class)
Sep 5	Labor Day
Sep 6	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Sep 12	Last Day for Refund, Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 16	Last Day to ADD Classes
Sep 30	Graduation Application Deadline
Oct 13-14	Semester Break
Oct 17	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Nov 11	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Nov 14	Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Nov 15	Career Day
Nov 15	Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Nov 16	Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Nov 17	Open Registration
Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 9	Class-work Ends
Dec 12-16	Final Exams

**e-mail:** *You are required to frequently check your Dmail account.* 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](http://www.dixie.edu) and select "Dmail" from the left column. To locate your dmail username and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu), and click on "Log in to student services" (upper right corner).

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

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. The DRC is located on the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule an appointment to discuss the process. The DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Teachers at Dixie State College have the right to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate. Toward this end, teachers (or college security) may dismiss and remove disruptive students from individual class activities. If a student's behavior continues to disrupt class activities, the teacher may dismiss and cause the removal of disruptive students from their course.

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

**Cheating:** Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated at Dixie State College, including but not limited to plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes. Teachers at Dixie State College may discipline students proven guilty of academic dishonesty by:

- Giving a failing grade on the specific assignment where dishonesty occurred,
  - Failing the student in the entire course,
  - Immediately dismissing and removing the student from the course, and/or
  - Referring the student to Student Affairs, a committee which may reprimand, place on probation, suspend, and/or expel the student.
- Students guilty of cheating/plagiarism will be dealt with according to college policy as found at <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>.