

PSY 352, Abnormal Psychology, Fall 2010 (43195)
 TTH 11:00 – 12:30, Welch Hall, Room 1.308 (WEL 1.308)

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Overview: The main goal for this course is to provide broad exposure to descriptive psychopathology (i.e., the symptoms, signs, and clinical course) and treatment of the major psychiatric disorders. A scientific and empirical approach to this material is emphasized.

Class Schedule: The topics below will be covered in this course. This is a tentative schedule, as some topics may take more time to review than others. Changes to this schedule will be announced in class.

Date	No.	Lecture Topic	Chapter
Aug 26	1	Course Overview	
Aug 31	2	Abnormal Behavior: Definition and History of its Treatment	1
Sept 2	3	Abnormal Behavior: Underlying Causes	2
Sept 7	4	Research Methods in Clinical Psychology	4
Sept 9	5	Research Methods: Empirically Supported Treatments, Treatments that Harm	4
Sept 14	6	Clinical Assessment: Diagnosis and Approaches	3
Sept 16	7	Clinical Assessment: Specific Instruments	3
Sept 21	8	Anxiety Disorders: Symptoms and Causes	5
Sept 23	9	Anxiety Disorders: Treatment	5
Sept 28		Exam I	
Sept 30	10	Mood Disorders: Symptoms and Causes	7
Oct 5	11	Mood Disorders: Treatment	7
Oct 7	12	Eating Disorders: Symptoms and Causes	8
Oct 12	13	Eating Disorders: Treatment	8
Oct 14	14	Substance Related Disorders: Symptoms and Causes	11
Oct 19	15	Substance Related Disorders: Treatment	11
Oct 21	16	Physical Disorders and Health Psychology	9
Oct 26	17	Cognitive Disorders: Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment	15
Oct 28		Exam II	
Nov 2	18	Schizophrenia: Symptoms and Causes	13
Nov 4	19	Schizophrenia: Treatment	13
Nov 9	20	Developmental Disorders: Focus on Autism (Writing Assignment Due!)	14
Nov 11	21	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	6
Nov 16	22	Developmental Disorders: Other Disorders and Treatment	14
Nov 18	23	Personality Disorders: Symptoms and Causes	12
Nov 23	24	Personality Disorders: Treatment	12
Nov 25		Eat turkey! Thanksgiving holiday.	
Nov 30	25	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	10
Dec 2		Exam III	
Dec 10		Optional Final Exam (2-3:30pm) *please note the time change	

Text: Barlow, D. H., Writing & Durand, V. M. (2009). *Abnormal Psychology: An integrative approach*. 5th edition. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Note that this text is different from Durand and Barlow's "Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 5th edition." In addition to the text, consider taking advantage of the textbook's companion website and CD-ROM. The website <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ISBN/9780495095569?cid=APL1> includes self-study assessments for each chapter and practice tests. The website also contains information about careers in psychology and other types of resources. The CD contains clips of real patients talking about their disorders. The people in these film clips are also discussed in the text's clinical case studies. The film clips may help bring the text to life and can supplement the other film clips we watch in class.

A copy of this syllabus and other course material can be found on the University of Texas' Blackboard <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. Blackboard will also be used to send electronic announcements to the class, post assignments, supplemental lecture material, and exam grades. Be sure that your e-mail information in Blackboard is correct. Check your email regularly. Please note that we cannot give out grades via the phone or email under any circumstances.

Teaching Philosophy: My approach is not to simply regurgitate what is written in the text, but to complement the text material. The textbook provides an excellent *overview* of the material. However, it does not cover in detail some aspects of current research and theory. Therefore, lectures will be used to fill in the contemporary picture more thoroughly and to provide greater detail on particular topics. This will be accomplished by focusing on particularly influential studies, discussing case studies, watching film clips, etc. Please be aware that this means that at times the lectures will accompany and complement the text, while at other times the lectures will introduce information not covered in the text.

Exams: Three (3) exams will be given during the semester. Each exam will contribute 30% to your final grade. Exams thus make up 90% of your grade. Each exam will consist of approximately 60 multiple choice and/or matching questions. Each exam will cover all assigned readings and all material presented during lecture since the previous exam. Exams will not be returned, but you may review your exam during office hours. Please notify the T.A. in advance if you plan to review your test, so we can locate your exam. Please bring your University of Texas ID with you to each exam. The only approved mechanism to post interim student grades is by using a protected website like eGradebook or Blackboard: final grades are available via UTDirect. Grades will never be given out over the phone or by email.

Optional Final Exam: An optional, cumulative final exam will be offered during the final exam period. This exam will be held during the time, date, and location scheduled by the University. The optional final exam will include material that is covered throughout the semester. The optional final exam can be substituted for one (1) exam during the semester. That is, your grade on the cumulative final will replace your lowest exam grade. Performing well on the optional final exam provides you with an opportunity to overcome a poor exam grade earlier in the semester.

Missed Exams: Everyone is expected to take the exams at the regularly scheduled time. No makeup exams will be given unless there is a significant documented illness, personal trauma, or official university event. Such documentation must be provided within 48 hours of the missed exam. Otherwise, missed exams will receive a score of 0. To maintain the integrity of exams given in class, make-up exams will differ from exams administered in class. Please remember that you can use the cumulative final exam to replace a missed exam. However, you cannot use the cumulative final to replace two missed exams. In the case of two or more missed exams, the cumulative final can replace one missed exam and the other missed exam(s) will receive a score of 0.

Exam Grading: After each test, item analyses will be conducted for all test questions. This involves examining: (1) the difficulty of each test question (i.e., the % of students who correctly answered the

question) and (2) how well the item discriminates those who performed well from those who performed poorly (i.e., are people who do well on the test overall more likely to get this question correct than those who do poorly overall on the test). If an item was difficult (i.e., more than 50% of the class got the item incorrect) *and* it does not discriminate people who performed well from those who performed poorly overall, the item will be dropped from the test and everyone will receive full credit for that item.

Required Writing Assignment: One goal for this course is to use the information learned in class and apply it to new problems, situations, etc. To help accomplish this goal, there will be one required writing assignment. For this assignment, you will be given a case study. Your task will be to develop a diagnosis and treatment plan for this individual. You will need to justify your diagnosis and treatment plan based on material we have covered in class and material that you obtain from other reputable sources (e.g., research databases, Cochrane Reviews, etc.). More detail will be provided with the writing assignment. It will be posted to Blackboard. This project is worth 10% of your grade. Late submissions will be penalized 10 points per day after the deadline until all points are depleted.

How to compute your grade: Your overall grade will be based on three exam scores and one writing assignment. Each exam will count for 30% of your final grade. The writing assignment will count for 10% of your grade. To calculate your grade, (a) total your best three exam scores (highest possible score = 300) and divide by 3 and then multiply by 0.90, (b) multiply your score for the paper assignment (highest possible score = 100) by 0.10, (c) add a + b.

For instance, suppose the best three exam scores for a student were 79, 84, and 82 and he received a 75 on the paper assignment. This person's final grade for the class would be: 81 [i.e., $((79 + 84 + 82)/3) * .90 + (75 * .10) = 73.5 + 7.5 = 81$]. For the final grade, I will round up fractions that are .5 or greater to the nearest whole number and round down fractions that are less than .5 to the nearest whole number.

Grades will be assigned as follows: 90 – 100 = A; 87 – 89 = B+; 83 – 86 = B; 80 – 82 = B-; 77 – 79 = C+; 73 – 76 = C; 70 – 72 = C-; 67 – 69 = D+; 63 – 66 = D; 60 – 62 = D-; less than 60 = F. These point ranges are firm and not negotiable. If you are just short of the threshold for a higher grade, consider taking the final exam to improve your grade.

Attendance: Attendance will not be formally monitored. However, my past experience is that poor attendance will directly influence your grade. Some of the material that will be covered in class will not be covered in the textbook; therefore, consistent attendance is important to perform well on the exams.

Dropping: Any time before taking the first exam you may drop the course with a Q grade. After that time you may drop with a Q only if your performance up to that time is D or better; otherwise you drop with a grade of F. Be sure to follow University deadlines for dropping courses.

Prerequisites: The Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the following prerequisites: (1) PSY 301 and PSY 418 (or equivalent listed in course schedule) with a C or better, and (2) upper division standing (60 hours completed). Dropped students will be notified by the 12th class day. If you are unsure whether you meet these requirements, please contact the undergraduate advisors, located in SEA 2.218; phone: 471-4410; e-mail: undergrad@psy.utexas.edu.

Disabilities: Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (471-4641 TTY). If special accommodations are needed for exams, the student must notify the TA at least one week before the exam and provide documentation from the Dean of Students' Office.