

PSYCHOLOGY 270 – ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY Spring 2010

Instructor: Steve N. Du Bois, M.A.

Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:15pm, Lecture Center E2 (E112)

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Office Hours: By appointment

Overview:

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology (PSYCH 270)! I hope you are as excited to take this course as I am to teach it. Throughout the semester, we will explore the many symptoms of and treatments for a variety of different psychological disorders. We will also learn how psychological disorders are categorized and diagnosed, focusing on strengths and weaknesses of these categories. We will explore these and other topics through an objective, empirical, and sympathetic lens.

Prerequisite Course:

Psychology 100: Introduction to Psychology. Therefore, you must have passed PSYCH 100 to be enrolled in PSYCH 270.

Required Text:

I recommend purchasing a used copy of this book from an online vendor; however, new versions of this book are available at the UIC bookstore:

Nevid, J.S., Rathus, S.A., & Greene, B. (2008). *Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World – 7th Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Goals:

By the end of the course you will be able to do the following:

- 1) Describe the different categories of psychological disorders and the primary symptoms of these disorders.
- 2) Discuss and critique theoretical models that explain how these disorders originate.
- 3) Learn how professionals categorize and diagnose psychological disorders and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these categories and diagnoses.
- 4) Understand how research can be applied to and inform psychology.

Additionally, I look forward to working with you to accomplish any personal goals you may have for yourself in this course.

Evaluation and Grading:

Final grades in this course will be given based on a maximum total of 400 points:

- 1) **EXAMS (3 x 100 = 300):** Four exams will be given in this class. Three non-cumulative exams will be given throughout the course of the semester and a cumulative final will be given during finals week. All exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions, and all exams will be worth 100 points. At the end of the semester, the lowest of these four

exam scores will be dropped, leaving a total of 300 possible points for exams in this course. Therefore, if you are satisfied with the grades you have received on the first three exams, you **do not** need to take the final. However, as a result of this policy, **no make-up exams will be given on any of the four exams**. If you miss an exam for any reason, you will get a zero on that exam, and that score will be dropped as your lowest grade. There will be no exceptions to this policy. If you miss two exams, you will receive two scores of zero, one of which will be dropped and one of which will be counted toward your final grade. Use of any notes and/or electronic devices, e.g. cell phones, is not allowed during exams. **NOTE:** All material presented in lecture or in the textbook and readings is fair game for examinations, even if that material was not specifically mentioned in class.

- 2) **PAPER (50):** You will be required to write one paper this semester. This paper will be worth 50 points of your final grade. Specific instructions for this paper will be distributed in a separate document. Late papers will lose two points for each day they are late.
- 3) **IN-CLASS CRITICAL THINKING/ATTENDANCE QUESTIONS (25 x 2 pts each = 50):** At the beginning of each class, I will ask you a critical thinking question that relates to the reading assigned for that class. Your answers will be no more than three to five sentences long and will be worth two points each. You will receive one point for turning in an answer. You will receive a second point if your answer is correct. Therefore, you can receive up to two points per class. If you are late to class and miss the question, you can still turn in a piece of paper with your name on it, to receive one point. Two of your lowest scores will be dropped in grading. Therefore, you can miss two lectures without penalty. I will not ask these questions at the beginning of classes during which we take exams.
- 4) **EXTRA-CREDIT INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS (5):** I would like to meet with each of you to discuss any difficulties you are having with class material, psychology and/or graduate school generally, professional opportunities, your favorite hobbies, musical interests, etc. If you would like to meet with me for 30 minutes at anytime throughout the semester, email me to set up a time. Upon meeting with me, you will receive 5 points extra credit toward your final grade. Please note that I cannot guarantee I will be free when you would like to meet, although I will do my best to accommodate you.

Final grades will be determined on a 100 point scale and letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, and F= lower than 60. I will round up final grades if the decimal point is .5 or higher. If the decimal is anything lower than .5, I will round the final grade down (e.g., .49 is rounded down). No exceptions will be made to this rule. Grades can be determined at any time through the course of the semester by dividing your personal total number of points by the total number of points given out so far.

Policies/Procedures:

- **Computers/Electronic Devices in class:** While I encourage students to take notes in class, I will not allow students to use a computer to take notes during class, unless the student provides documentation that demonstrates his/her need to use a computer in-class. Moreover, using cell phones/Blackberries/iPhones to text and/or go online during class is rude and not allowed.

- **Class Participation:** I expect you to complete and engage in the reading. We only meet for 2.5 hours per week, and to maximize your class experience you should read the textbook. Further, I hope students will participate in class by asking questions about the reading and/or lecture.
- **Missing class:** Students who need to miss class for religious observation will not be penalized, but must inform me of this absence in the first 2 weeks of class. Students who need to miss class due to circumstances outside of the student's control (i.e., serious illness, death in the family, etc.) will not be penalized but must bring appropriate documentation for this absence.
- **Empathy and Respect:** Please remember that the topics being covered are things that actual people experience. Many of us ourselves either struggle with or have friends or family who live with a disorder. Because of this personal relevance, please be mindful of word choice and try to be as kind and respectful as you can be in our discussions and questions about disorders. Holding side conversations in class is also not acceptable. Given the sensitive nature of the topics at hand, you may be asked to leave if you do not follow these rules.
- **Cheating, plagiarism, etc:** I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. If a student is caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing on a paper, that student will automatically receive an F for the course and the appropriate authorities within the university will be notified.
- **Correspondence:** I encourage students to correspond with me via e-mail. I will attempt to answer all student emails within three business days. If I have not responded to your email in three business days, please send me the email again.
- **Disabilities/Special Needs:** I am happy to accommodate special needs for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should inform me of any needed accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2103 (voice) or drc@uic.edu (email).
- **Extra Academic Support:** The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is a multifaceted academic support program designed to help UIC students accomplish their academic goals. ACE is open to all UIC students, from freshman through graduate level. ACE can be reached at 312-413-0031 or Suite 2900 in Student Services Building.
- **Additional Clinical Resources:** It is not unusual for topics covered in Abnormal Psychology to elicit unexpected issues for students, whether it is for him/herself or for someone else. If you feel you, or someone you know, needs counseling, please contact the Counseling Center at 312-996-3490. All services are completely confidential and free. In addition, UIC has an InTouch Crisis Hotline available every evening from 6:00pm to 10:30pm, at 312-996-5535.
- **Dropping the Course:** Only a student can initiate the dropping of a course. The student can drop a course through Banner up through the 10th day of the semester with no academic penalty and no 'W' appearing on his/her transcript. After the 10th day (Jan. 21) and through Friday of the 10th week (March 18) of the semester, the student may drop courses by seeing a college academic advisor. These late drops are indicated by 'W' on the transcript and are limited to a total of four for the student's entire UIC career.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading
1	Class overview, Research Methods	Chapter 1
2	Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior	Chapter 2
3	Classification and Assessment of Abnormal Behavior	Chapter 3
	Methods of Treatment	Chapter 4
4	Methods of Treatment (cont.) EXAM ONE ON FEB 4	Chapter 4 Review Chapters 1-4
5	Stress, Psychology, and Health	Chapter 5
6	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
7	Dissociative & Somatoform Disorders	Chapter 7
8	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8
9	Substance Use Disorders Eating and Sleep Disorders	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
10	Paper Topic Distribution and Discussion EXAM TWO ON MARCH 18	Review Chapters 5-10
11	SPRING BREAK!	
12	Disorders involving Gender & Sexuality Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
13	Schizophrenia (cont.) Personality Disorders	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
14	Personality Disorders Developmental Disorders	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
15	Cognitive Disorders PAPER DUE APRIL 22	Chapter 15
16	Abnormal Psychology and the Law EXAM THREE APRIL 29	Chapter 16 Review Chapters 11-16
Finals Week	CUMULATIVE FINAL (Date and Time TBA)	