

PSY 5310 ADVANCED ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2018 Syllabus

Where: UAC 408

When: MW 09:30-10:50

Professor: Dr. Amitai Abramovitch

Office: UAC 253C

Office Hours: By appointment

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Abramovitch Lab: www.neuropsychopathology.com

Course Website: <http://tracs.txstate.edu>

Prerequisite: Abnormal Psychology (or equivalent)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & RESOURCES:

Oxford textbook of psychopathology, Third Edition. Paul H. Blaney, Robert F. Krueger & Theodore Millon (Eds.) New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0-19-981177-9

Additional resources including mandatory (see Table) and suggested readings are on the TRACS website under 'Resources'.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The primary aim of this graduate level course is twofold: On one hand students will conduct critical analysis of the definition and classification of psychopathology and experience and an in-depth study of theories and research on causes, treatment, and assessment. At the same time, this course will utilize multiple critical perspectives regarding the definitions of psychopathology, myths, and common misunderstanding, using evidence-based science and best practices. The emphasis on this critical perspective will be emphasized throughout the course, and students are expected to take an active part in criticizing information, using critical scientific thinking and examination of scientific work. Thus, this course will equip students with in-depth knowledge about psychopathology as well as provide tools to critically evaluate information in the context of psychopathology, and more broadly. This include examination of concepts such as “chemical imbalance”, psychopathology as a form of medical illness, the nature of inferences from imaging studies, and correlation versus causation in neuroscience, to name a few. Students should expect to dispel prevailing myths and to challenge their own perceptions.

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A Note About Reading Materials

The field of psychopathology is vast, and it will be difficult to cover in one semester. Thus, this course requires substantial reading prior to classes. The course is structured in a way that assumes you have read the requested materials which allows us to focus on the most important issues and on critically examining the information you read. I am sure you will read all that is required for every class. To do that I have reduces your assignment load. I do not expect you to memorize the required readings, but rather to come to class knowing the concepts contained in the readings and being ready to discuss them articulately and/or ask intelligent questions about ideas which are interesting, unfamiliar, or confusing to you.

Please note that I reserve the right to give occasional unannounced pop quizzes on the reading assignments (which can be avoided by showing me that you are reading the assigned material and coming to class prepared). Your score on these quizzes will count toward the class participation grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be familiar and be able to critically evaluate the definitions of psychopathology.
2. Students will assess and differentiate between classification methods, assessment techniques, and research methods pertaining to psychopathology.
3. Students will identify major psychiatric conditions, and recognize their etiology, epidemiology, clinical course, symptoms, treatment, and prognosis.
4. Students will strengthen their critical thinking regarding psychopathology through class discussions and assignments. Students will independently evaluate and disentangle myths from evidence-based scientific knowledge.
5. Students will improve their presentation skills, and their ability to identify, discuss, and disseminate pseudo-science, versus evidence-based science.
5. At the end of the course students will gain knowledge regarding the state of the field, and the historical evolution of psychopathology, as well as be equipped with critical thinking tools that would facilitate rigor in future research, clinical work and training.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Psychology has adopted expected student learning outcomes for the undergraduate major, the graduate major, and for PSY 1300, a general education course meeting a requirement for the social and behavioral science component. These expected student learning outcomes are available for your review at the following website: <http://www.psych.txstate.edu/assessment/>

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Texas State University Policy: "Violation of the 'Honor Code' includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials." (UPPS 07.10.01 <http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html>)

Psychology Department Policy: The study of psychology is done best in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. Academic dishonesty, in any form, destroys this atmosphere. Academic dishonesty consists of any of a number of things that spoil a good student-teacher relationship. A list of academically dishonest behaviors include: (1) passing off others' work as one's own, (2) copying off of another person during an examination, (3) signing another person's name on an attendance sheet, (4) in written papers, paraphrasing from an outside source while failing to credit the source or copying more than four words in sequence without quotation marks and appropriate citation.

LAPTOPS/CELLPHONES:

You may use a laptop to take class notes, and ONLY for notes (and not internet browsing or anything else) **Any use of cell phones is never allowed during class! Please keep your phone DARK, SILENT, and OUT OF SIGHT!**

DISABILITY POLICY

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact me as soon as possible. You will be asked to provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services. Failure to contact me in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF MATERIALS

The Power Point slides I use in this course are my intellectual property and are protected by copyright laws. Please feel free to use those in order to assist you in the learning process. However, please do not share these slides with anyone outside the class, and please do not post them on any website and other media. I do not allow to use audio or video recordings. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE

Please note that attendance is mandatory.

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GRADING*

Each person's grade will be determined by his/her performance on **a midterm exam, a final exam, class participation and attendance, and one class presentation.**

Course Grading

Midterm exam = 35%

Final Exam = 35%

Presentation: 20%

Active Participation and attendance: 10%

Exams

The midterm exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions that will cover the materials up to the exam. This may be rescheduled only in cases of medical illness or family emergency and is not rescheduled for travel convenience. The final exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and will comprise the materials covered after the Midterm. Our final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th, at 11:00 am. **DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS THAT INVOLVE LEAVING BEFORE FINISHING THE EXAM.**

Presentations

The primary goal of this task is to gain knowledge on central issues concerning or related to abnormal psychology, to improve critical thinking, students' ability to weigh evidence, the ability to communicate critical thinking, and to be able to handle question by informed audience. In the last 3 classes of the semester each student will deliver a presentation and a short Q&A discussion on a preselected subject. Detailed guidelines are provided under 'Resources' in the course' TRACS website. You should be informed as to the guidelines prior to the first day of classes.

STUDENT ABSENCE AND LATENESS POLICIES

In cases where a test must be made up or other work turned in late, full credit will be given when missed deadlines were due to one of the following reasons:

- a. Injury or illness requiring treatment at home or in a hospital including any temporary medical condition (e.g., pregnancy)
- b. Death of a family member
- c. Required participation in a University-sponsored activity (See [UPPS 02.06.03](#))

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- d. A field trip or off-campus activity required for a non-elective course essential to the student's degree program.
- e. Required participation in active military service (See [UPPS 02.06.03](#))
- f. Official religious Holy Days (See [UPPS 02.06.01](#))

Documentation (e.g., doctor's note) must be provided to receive full credit for the late work. Please make every effort to inform me in advance if work will be missed due to emergency.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

* Subject to changes

| Date | Topic | Assigned Reading |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| August 27 | Course overview, definition of abnormality | Lilienfeld et al (2015) 50 <i>psychological and psychiatric terms to avoid.</i> |
| August 29 | History of Abnormality | Textbook, Chapter 1 |
| September 3, Labor day | Labor Day - NO CLASS | NO CLASS |
| September 5 | Biological versus Psychological perspectives | Read the two chapters from Whittaker, R (2010) <i>Anatomy of an Epidemic</i> |
| September 10 | Assessment and Diagnosis | Textbook, Chapter 2 (optional) |
| September 12 | Antipsychiatry | Rosenhan D. (1973) <i>On being Sane in Insane Places</i> Szasz T, (1960) <i>The Myth of Mental Illness</i> |
| September 17 | Trauma Related Disorders, Anxiety Disorders | Textbook, Chapter 5 (Chapter 7, optional) |
| September 19 | NO CLASS | NO CLASS |
| September 24, 26 | Anxiety Disorders | Textbook, Chapter 5 (Chapter 7, optional) |

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| October 1, 3 | OCD and related disorders | Textbook, Chapter 6 |
| October 8, 10 | Mood Disorders | Textbook, Chapter 8 (chapter 9 optional) |
| October 15 | Mood Disorders & Suicide | Textbook, Chapter 8 (chapter 9 optional) |
| October 17 | NO CLASS | Study for exam |
| October 22 | Midterm Exam | Includes all materials covered so far. |
| October 24, 29 | Personality Disorders | Textbook, Chapters 23, 24,25,26,27,28,29,30 (optional) |
| October 31 | Schizophrenia | Textbook, Chapter 12 |
| November 5, 7 | Substance Use Disorders | Satel & Lilienfeld <i>Addiction and the Brain Disease Fallacy</i> |
| November 12 | ADHD | Textbook, Chapter 18 |
| November 14 | ADHD – A different perception | |
| November 19 | Developmental Disorders: Autism, Conduct, Impulse Control and Disruptive Disorders | Textbook, Chapter 19 |
| November 21 | NO CLASS | THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| November 26 | Eating disorders | Textbook, Chapter 16 |
| November 28 | Presentations | Each student receives a different article(s) and presents a critical review and leads Q&A |
| December 3 | Presentations | |
| December 5 | Presentations | |
| December 10 | FINAL EXAM Saturday ,December 10th, 11am | Chapter 12, 14 (5-10%), Cumulative questions (90-95%) |

Please note that immediately following an exam, students' cognitive status is not ideal in terms of the ability learn effectively. This is why I strive not to have a class on exam days. However, this is subject to changes, depending on our progress.