Course Name: Abnormal Psychology               Meeting Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Course Number: PSYC 3363.001                    Professor: Prof. Pilar Galiana y Abal
Academic Period: Spring 2014                     Office: BH 316
Meeting Room: BH 207                               Telephone: 361-825-5994
Meeting Day: Tuesday & Thursday                   E-mail: pilar.galiana@tamucc.edu

Office hours:
Tuesday: 11:00 to 12:00 A.M.
Tuesday & Thursday: 2:00 PM to 4:00 P.M

SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology 3363, Abnormal Psychology, is an upper division undergraduate course in theories of psychopathology. This course will cover the various theories of the etiology and natural history of mental disorder. We will consider the history, categorization, diagnosis, causes and treatments of abnormal behavior. We will examine the value of research in the area and the applicability of the research findings in practice. Competency in personality psychology, such as that obtained by completing PSYC 3361, is assumed for this course.

Students will examine clinical issues in the field of applied psychopathology and their ethical implications. The course material and lectures are such that students will be encouraged to integrate their existing knowledge of human development, psychosocial, political and public health issues into their course material.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Below are the specific Learning Outcomes for the course:

1. To recognize that definitions of psychological disorders and conceptions of abnormality vary across both time and culture.

2. To learn to identify multiple models of psychopathology and to recognize how they influence both treatment and our understanding of psychopathology.

3. To be able to recognize the different categories of psychological disorders in the DSM-IV and to gain an understanding of differential diagnoses within a specific category.

4. To gain an understanding of the causes, course, and treatment of psychological disorders.
5. To become familiar with mental status exams, intake interviews, and note writing procedures.

IV. EXAMS (75%)

There will be three examinations worth 100 points each and 75% of the overall grade for the course. Exams will be given on the date announced unless you are instructed to the contrary. When the exam calendar changes, the syllabus will be updated and posted on blackboard. You will receive a notice by email to your islander account if the exam’s schedule was modified.

1. **Exam # 1 will count for 20% out of the 75%**. It will be a written exam composed for 50% of a multiple choice type questions and 50% will be dedicated to short written essays.

2. **Exam # 2 will count for 20% out of the 75%**. It will be (1) a written *Take Home Exam* exclusively composed of clinical case studies. I will give you some days to complete it. A (2) oral examination will be given to complete the written part. Oral exam will be organized as a five minutes one-to-one with the professor. This *mandatory* oral examination will be composed of questions about the student’s own written performance at the *Take Home Exam*. The advantage of the oral exam is that it allows the student to amend or improve his/her performance to the written *Take Home Exam*. Final grade will be calculated taking into account written and oral performance (written 75% and oral 25%).

3. **Final Exam # 3 will count for 35% out of the 75%**. It will be *Take Home Exam* composed of clinical case studies with some essay questions about clinical concepts and notions. No oral exam will be organized for Final test # 3.

Take Home Exams (Exam # 2 and Final Exam # 3) have to be returned according to the scheduled deadline in two different formats (1) **printed, it has to be given to the Professor** and (2) **sent by email to pilar.galiana@tamucc.edu**.

! A no show the exam day without a 24 hours previous notice and without a documented excuse will result in a zero.

A no show to the oral part of the Exam # 2 without a 24 hours previous notice and without a documented excuse will result in a zero.

Make-up exams will only be organized when the request is supported by acceptable and documented reasons (absence for health, athletic, family event, religious celebration reasons).
V. RESEARCH PAPER (25%)

An individual research paper will be required to validate this class (25%). Subject will be part of the semester program and chosen with the instructor. **The content of the paper has to include at least five academic readings other than the textbook on the subject as well as critical thinking about the readings.** The readings will be assigned by me during the semester.

The research paper will be written to the standards detailed in the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition and will be 6 to 10 pages length. The format of the pages is specified as well as the size font and type face to be used. I will make myself available if you need any help to find academic book/articles references. You will always have the opportunity to discuss with me your outline before you return me the research paper.

VI. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is very encouraged but not mandatory. In fact, attendance remains an essential factor highly correlated to a student success to the exams. In my class, attendance represents an opportunity for 10% extra credit which will be added to the grade of the final exam. Justified absences are due to health, professional appointments, active participation to athletic manifestations, religious holidays or family events or celebrations and have to be all supported by documents.

**You are authorized to have three unjustified absences. However, with your fourth unjustified absence you will lose the opportunity to get the 10% extra credit for final exam.**

VII. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT: ACADEMIC STYLE SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Students wanting to get extra credit have to prepare a presentation that will expose me **orally.** The subject of this presentation has to be part of the program PSYC 3663.001. As the assignment is a very short presentation (5 to 7 minutes), the subject has to be specific (ex: a research work in order to explore a specific clinical notion, concept about mental health or a specific mental disorder etc.).

! Presentations about a too general subject (ex: culture and psychopathology, normal and abnormal) without proper academic and documented research and without critical thinking will not get a good quote. The presentation has to be documented with academic readings and academic critical thinking.

**Presentation:** The paper will be orally presented in front of me or in front of the class (this aspect will be up to the student). The length of presentation is 5 minimum, 7 minutes as a maximum.

**Grade:** The grade of test and Short/Oral presentation will count for 50% each for the calculation of final grade to the very test.
VIII. GRADING

The grading of oral and written work will be done according to the following scale:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 59-0 = F

IX. ETIQUETTE

In my class, atmosphere tends to be friendly and relaxed. In order to preserve this harmonious and pleasant ambiance, I will require you to respect some basic rules of etiquette.

1. **Use of electronic devices**

   The use of electronic devices (computers, tablets, cell phones, recorders, etc.) is forbidden in my class. If you have any of these items with you, I will ask you to switch them off and to leave them inside your bags during the class. **There will be no exception to this rule. A non-respect of this rule will result on me asking you very politely to leave the class.**

2. **Punctuality**

   Punctuality is essential to respect the class dynamics and atmosphere. You may have to arrive late to my class in a regular basis because of your professional schedule or another class which schedule overlaps with mine. In such a situation, I request to be informed since the beginning of the semester.

3. **Behavior in class**

   3.1 **Discretion about Personal Issues**

   My classes tend to be very participative. I encourage interactions and engage students to give me their thoughts about a notion or a clinical situation that I narrated in class. However, I will not accept in my class any reference to family, personal and/or intimate problems, even if I understand that a subject as « abnormal psychology » may encourage this kind of introspective thinking. In my opinion, learning to adopt an attitude of emotional distance and discretion about one’s private life is part of the training in psychology. A class in abnormal psychology is not a group psychotherapy session as should not be understood as such.
3.2 Professional Opinions About Personal Issues

As a professor of psychology, I will **not** give you any professional advice. Concretely, this means that I will not comment on diagnosis or treatments given to you, your family members or friends. Neither I will express any clinical analysis of your personal situations. This position is supported by two kind of reasons, (1) linked to my professional identity (in class I am a professor and not a clinician) and (2) linked to the code of conduct in psychology (a professor of psychology is ethically not allowed to treat his/her students as patients). I hope you understand these very important aspects.

3.3 Silence versus Participation

Discussions will be very encouraged when comments and discussions are expressed in front of the class, giving to other students and to myself the opportunity to be part of them. When conversations are not shared, students will be asked to keep quiet. **Students having private conversations during lectures will be politely asked to leave the class.**

3.4 Respect of other’s students opinions

In my classes, discussions can be passionate, sometimes inflamed. I consider that respecting other people’s points of view is the required emotional position in a class of psychology where academic demonstration is privileged to the detriment of emotional and affective expression of value judgement.

X. LECTURES AND CLASS MATERIALS

Powerpoint of all my lectures will be posted on Blackboard and you will always be informed by email of any update.

If I travel during the semester (I will) all my lectures will be recorded and posted on Blackboard.

Other class materials like methodological orientations for *Take Home Exams*, key recomendations to write the research paper, recorded lectures, syllabus updates will be posted on Blackboard).

![For all updates through Blackboard, I will use your islander account. Please think of activating your islander account before starting my class.](5)
XI. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall Room 116.

XI. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 101 E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

XII. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

The current University Catalog and Student Handbook discuss plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Any student violating these codes will be held responsible.

XIII. GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XIV. ASSIGNED READINGS

The major assigned reading will be the textbook.

Five academic articles will be proposed to the class. All will explore different aspects of DSM-V mental disorders. These references will be determined during the spring semester.

01/23/2014:

- Syllabus Overview, Course Introduction and General guidelines
• Introduction to Chapter 1 - Thinking Normal & Abnormal

01/28/2014 & 01/30/ 2014:

• Chapter 1 - Abnormal Psychology: Historical and Modern Perspectives

02/04/2014 & 02/06/2014:

• Chapter 2 – Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology

02/11/2014 & 02/13/2014:

• Chapter 3 – Assessment and Diagnosis

01/18/2014: EXAMINATION #1 CHS. 1 & 3

02/20/2014:

• Chapter 4 – Anxiety Disorders (I)

02/25/2014 & 02/27/2014: (I will be travelling to Europe from Monday 24th February to 28th February, 2014. All my lectures will be posted on Blackboard)

• Chapter 4- Anxiety Disorders (II)

• Chapter 5 - Somatoform, Dissociative, and Factitious Disorders (I)

03/04/2014 & 03/06/2013:

• Chapter 5 - Somatoform, Dissociative, and Factitious Disorders (II)

• Chapter 6 - Mood Disorders
03/11/2014: TAKE HOME EXAMINATION #2 CHS. 4, 5 & 6 WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

➢ 03/14/2014: DEADLINE TO RETURN TAKE HOME EXAM

➢ 03/18/2014: ORAL EXAM WILL TAKE PLACE DURING MY OFFICE HOURS. A SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

03/11/2014 & 03/13/2014

• Chapter 7 – Eating Disorders

03/18/2014 & 03/20/2014:

• Chapter 8 – Gender and Sexual Disorders

03/25/2014 & 03/27/2014:

• Chapter 9 – Substance Use Disorder

04/01/2014 & 04/03/2014:

• Chapter 10 - Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

04/08/2014 & 04/10/2014:

• Chapter 11 – Personality Disorders (I)

04/15/2014 & 04/17/2014:

• Chapter 11 – Personality Disorders (II)

04/22/2014 & 04/24/2014:

• Chapter 12 – Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence (I)
04/29/2014 & 05/01/2014:

- Chapter 12 – Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence (II)

TBA FINAL EXAMINATION #4 CUMULATIVE, INCLUDING CHS. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12