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 (60%)

There will be four examinations worth 100 points each and 60% of the overall grade for the course. Prior to each exam, you will be given information on the material and the format of the exam. Exams will be given on the date announced unless you are instructed to the contrary. **There will be no make-up examinations.**

V. GROUP WORK AND RESEARCH PAPER (25%)

Beginning on the first day of class students will be divided into groups consisting of five students each. Each group will be required to choose a subject raised in the course and submit a 12-page collaborative research paper on it. The paper will be written to the standards detailed in the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. The format of the pages is specified as well as the size font and type face to be used.

In November, an oral presentation of 15 minutes in length summarizing the research paper will be expected. One or two students in one group will be responsible for doing this oral presentation in front of the class and will represent the other members of the group. The final grade will take into account the oral presentation (20%) and the research paper (80%), which as a whole will be worth 25% of the overall grade for the course.

VI. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (15%)

Class attendance is mandatory, and absences may only be excused on health, family, religious, and athletic grounds, all of which must be documented. Six unexcused absences are permitted. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of the final grade.

VII. 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
VIII. ETIQUETTE

Please turn off your cell phones, pagers and other devices that might disrupt others in your class. Laptops used in lectures may only be used for note-taking or other activities related to the lecture at hand.

IX. 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.

X. 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.

XI. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

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

XII. 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.

XIII. ASSIGNED READING

09/04:
• Course Introduction and general guidelines

• Chapter 1 - Abnormal Psychology: Historical and Modern Perspectives

09/11:

• Chapter 2 – Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology

09/18:

• Chapter 3 – Assessment and Diagnosis

09/25:

• Chapter 4 – Anxiety Disorders

10/02: EXAMINATION #1 CHS. 1, 2, 3 & 4

• Chapter 5 – Somatoform, Dissociative, and Factitious Disorders

10/09:

• Chapter 6 – Mood Disorders

10/16:

• Chapter 7 – Eating Disorders

10/23: EXAMINATION #2 CHS. 5, 6 & 7

• Chapter 8 – Gender and Sexual Disorders

10/30:

• Chapter 9 – Substance Use Disorders

11/06:

• Chapter 10 – Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

11/13: EXAMINATION #3 CHS. 8, 9 & 10
- Chapter 11 – Personality Disorders

11/20:
- Chapter 12 – Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

11/27
- Chapter 13 – Aging and Cognitive Disorders

12/04:
- Chapter 14 - Abnormal Psychology: Legal and Ethical Issues

TBA FINAL EXAMINATION #4 CUMULATIVE, INCL. CHS. 11, 12, 13 & 14