Course Name: Abnormal Psychology  Professor: Sam S. Hill, III, Psy.D.  
Course Number: PSYC 3363.002  Academic Period: Spring 2013  
Office: BH 315  Meeting Room: CI-106  
Meeting Day: Tuesday & Thursday  Meeting Time: 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM  
Telephone: (361) 825-2394  Fax: (361) 825-6098  
E-mail: sam.hill@tamucc.edu

SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology 3363, Abnormal Psychology, is an upper division undergraduate course in 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.

Students will examine ethical and professional issues in the field of applied psychopathology. 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 TR and DSM-5 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

There will be four examinations depending on the progress of the class. These are worth 100 points each. Prior to the test, you will be given information on the material and the format of the test. Tests will be given on the date announced unless you are instructed to the contrary. There will be no make-up examinations.

V. RESEARCH PAPER

You will be required to submit a 10 page paper on a subject which I will assign you. 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. The paper will be worth 150 points.

VI. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is not optional, you are expected to attend class at the hours scheduled. Your absence from class will surely affect your grade. If you miss a class, you will still be held responsible for all that transpired during that class, including schedule changes, material covered, and exams given.

VII. DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 550 possible points. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need 90% of the possible points. A "B" 80%, a "C" requires 70%, and a "D" requires 60% of the total points.

At the discretion of the instructor a student's grade may be raised but never lowered, for any of the following reasons:

1. quality of class participation,
2. improvement throughout the course
3. isolated low grade.

These exceptions to the "total points" rule will be considered only when a student's final average is within a few points of the cut-off for the next highest grade. The grade of "Incomplete" is not an automatic grade. Arrangements for this must be made with me prior to the end of the semester.
VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

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

XI. 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.

XII. OFFICE HOURS

Monday 3:30 PM until 4:30 PM
Tuesday 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM until 4:30 PM
Wednesday 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM
Thursday 12:30 PM until 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM until 4:00 PM
Other times by appointment

Other times by appointment
XIII. ASSIGNED READING

01/23  Course Introduction, Paper review

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION AND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

01/28 & 30  Chapter 1 – Introduction and historical overview
02/04 & 06  Chapter 2 – Current paradigms in psychology
02/06  TERM PAPERS TOPICS DUE
02/11 & 02/13  Chapter 3 – Diagnosis and assessment
02/18  EXAMINATION #1 CHS. 1, 2, & 3
02/20 & 25  Chapter 4 – Research methods in the study of psychopathology

PART 2 – PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

03/04 & 03/06  Chapter 5 – Mood Disorders
03/11 & 14  SPRING BREAK
03/18  TERM PAPERS DUE
03/18 & 20  Chapter 6 – Anxiety Disorders
03/25  EXAMINATION #2 CHS. 4, 5, & 6
04/01 & 03  Chapter 7 – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Trauma Related Disorders
04/08 & 10  Chapter 8 – Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptoms Disorders
04/15 & 17  Chapter 9 – Schizophrenia
04/22  EXAMINATION #3 CHS. 7, 8, & 9
04/24 & 29  Chapter 10 – Substance Use Disorders
05/01 & 06  Chapter 11 – Eating Disorders
TBA  FINAL EXAMINATION #4 CHS. 10, & 11