ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 3363.003
SYLLABUS
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Robert Mims  Office: BH 3.56; 825-2389
Day and Time:  W, 7:00-9:30 PM, BH 104  Office Hours: W, 6:00-7:00 PM
E-Mail: robert.mims@tamucc.edu or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Psychology 3363 will cover numerous theories and variations of human behavior as well as mental disorders. The course will review major clinical categories of abnormal behavior as well as the history, diagnoses, causes, and treatments of abnormal behavior. Also, current research methods as well as legal and ethical issues will be reviewed.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Recognize and be able to discuss the classes of abnormal behavior.
2. Be able to discuss the development of abnormal behavior.
3. Identify the methods used to evaluate and treat abnormal behaviors.
4. Recognize the current issues associated with abnormal behavior and its portrayal across time and culture.
5. Recognize the current issues involved in the research on abnormal behavior.

EVALUATION/GRADES
Course grades will be based on a total of 500 points.

(A) There will be 4 examinations worth 100 points each. Tests will be given on the date announced unless you are instructed to the contrary. There will be no make-up examinations. At the discretion of the instructor, make-up tests may be allowed for a personal emergency involving a student. If you are a student that is an athlete, inform me immediately and provide a schedule of anticipated absences.

(B) 60 points will be allotted to other assignments such as presentations, short papers, or role plays.

(C) Attendance and Class Participation. Class attendance is expected and if you miss a class you are responsible for all material covered during your absence, including changes in schedule, reading assignments, or quizzes. If you miss a class, you should gather information from your peers in the course rather than from the instructor. Grades for attendance will be awarded on a percentage basis that will be measured by taking roll or completing short assignments in
class. A total of **40 possible points** will be awarded for attendance when measured at random intervals.

**DETERMINATION OF GRADES**
The final course grade will be based on your performance on the five exams, assignments, and your attendance/participation for a total of **500** points. The following point system can be used to calculate your final grade in the course: 90% or 450+ pts=A; 80% or 400-449 pts=B; 70% or 350-399 pts=C; 60% or 300-349 pts=D; 299 pts or below = non-passing grade.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**
Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Please make sure your password information is up to date so you can access this information. Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in class or any other electronic media that could be disruptive and all cell phones must be turned off completely and put away during class. Students who use phones in class including texting, will be asked to leave by the instructor or referred to the Dean of Students if their behavior persists. Please do not put yourself in this uncomfortable position and be polite and respectful of your instructor and fellow students.

**COMPUTER USE:**
Computer use for class activities is permitted if it does not disrupt other students. If you use your computer for non-class related activities (e.g. web surfing, Facebook, etc) you will forfeit the opportunity to use it in class and will be asked to leave or referred to the Dean of Students if the behavior persists.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, cheating, handing in materials used in other courses, the use of old exams from previous classes, or the use of any work that is not the student’s will be dealt with according to university policy (see the current University Catalog and Student Handbook).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Federal anti-discrimination statutes provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This and similar legislation require that all students will disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

Tape recording of lectures, guest speakers, or other class activities is prohibited without prior permission from the instructor. Exceptions may be made for students with disabilities or other special circumstances which might be allowed with the permission of the instructor.
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 203 E and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process
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.

WITHDRAWAL/INCOMPLETE
The last day you may drop a course with a grade of “W” is November 15th and you must complete the necessary paperwork yourself. A grade of “Incomplete” is given only with the permission of the instructor if you have satisfactorily completed all course requirements to that point and you contact me at least one week prior to the end of class.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**: (The instructor reserves the right to modify presentation or sequencing of topics and tests as necessary for optimum learning environment).

- **9/4** Course Introduction and Syllabus Review  
  Chapter 1-Introduction and Historical Overview  
  Chapter 2-Current Paradigms in Psychopathology
- **9/11** Chapter 3-Diagnosis & Assessment
- **9/18** Chapter 4-Research Methods in Psychopathology  
  Chapter 5-Mood Disorders
- **9/25** **TEST 1**
- **10/2** Chapter 6-Anxiety Disorders  
  Chapter 7-Obsessive-Compulsive-Related and Trauma-Related Disorders
- **10/9** Chapter 8-Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom Disorders  
  Chapter 9-Schizophrenia
- **10/16** Chapter 10-Substance Use Disorders  
  Chapter 11-Eating Disorders
- **10/23** **TEST 2**
- **10/30** Chapter 12-Sexual Disorders
- **11/6** Chapter 13-Disorders of Childhood
- **11/13** Chapter 14-Late Life and Neurocognitive Disorders
- **11/20** **TEST 3**
- **11/27** Chapter 15-Personality & Personality Disorders
- **12/4** Chapter 16-Legal & Ethical Issues  
  Current Issues/Short Paper Assignment Due
- **12/18** **TEST 4** **FINAL EXAM**