Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 3363.001
Fall 2015

Professor: Dr. Leslie Mills
Class Times and Location: TR 9:30-10:45; CI 107
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Office: CCH 115
Office Telephone: 361-825-3170
Office Hours: TR 10:45 – 12pm

Required Textbook:

Course Description:
An introduction to the study of abnormal behavior. Studies the etiology and characteristics of the major behavioral disorders, including current research findings and treatment practices. Competency in personality psychology, such as that obtained by completing PSYC 3361, is assumed for this course.

Learning Objectives
1. Identify and describe the major classes of abnormal human behavior.
2. Discuss how abnormal behavior develops.
3. Identify the primary means by which abnormal behavior is assessed and treated.
4. Identify current research issues in the study of abnormal behavior.
5. Understand the issues associated with how abnormal behavior is portrayed within a larger social context.

Course Considerations
*Two important things to consider regarding the course:*

- During the course many of you will likely fall into suffering some symptoms of a condition known as medical student disease (“perceive themselves to be experiencing the symptoms of the disease(s) they are studying”). Chances are that you are NOT suffering from this disorder and to think you are is normal for a class like this. However, if you feel like you are suffering from a disorder it is best to seek out professional help from a counselor, therapist, or psychologist to embark in treatment that you are most comfortable with. I am not a licensed clinician and as such, cannot offer any sort of treatment but there are resources available on campus that I can help direct you to.

- Many topics are extremely personal and I recommend that you stay within your comfort zone of what to share. I ask that we create a safe space for each other and respect confidentiality and sensitivity of the material discussed in this course. I ask that we as a group agree that what is said in class, stays in class – however I cannot guarantee this confidentiality to anyone. I also expect sensitivity on these issues. I will not tolerate any derogatory language or insulting terms used to refer to individuals with mental illness. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL.
**Major Course Requirements**

Grades for this course will be the combination of 3 exams, a journal, 2 movie analysis papers, and class participation. There is a possibility of earning 550 points during the semester.

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\begin{align*}
A &= 550-492 \\
B &= 491-437 \\
C &= 436-382 \\
D &= 381-327 \\
F &= 326 \text{ and below}
\end{align*}
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**Exams**

There will be **3 exams** plus a **comprehensive final exam** during the semester. The top 3 exam grades will be counted toward your final exam. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer and will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. The exams will be given **online** on the scheduled exam day (see course schedule). **There will be no make-up exams.**

**Final Comprehensive Exam**

The final comprehensive exam will be on the assigned final exam date. This exam will be given online. The final exam can be taken to replace your lowest exam grade, it cannot hurt you to take the final exam, if you do worse on the final exam than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the final exam. **If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the final exam to replace the missed exam grade.**

**Journals**

Students will keep a weekly journal reflecting on the phenomena discussed in class. Students should find examples of the things that are discussed in the course, and reflect upon these observations. This journal is an opportunity for you to think “out loud” about the issues that are raised in class or in the readings. Examples include writing about a particular set of feelings and/or thoughts associated with a given topic/disorder, a reflection on somebody you know who suffers from a disorder and how their symptoms are/are not reflective of the symptoms discussed in the course, or discussing the portrayal of mental illness in the media (For confidentiality purposes, please do not use their real names, their real “titles”, or include any identifying information regarding anyone you are writing about in the course). There should be a minimum of 15 entries for the semester. Journals should be typed, double spaced, and pages placed in a 3 ring binder in chronological order. Journals **DO NOT** have to be in APA format. Journals will be submitted midway in the semester (and should have a minimum of 7 entries) and feedback will be given at this time. The final grade will not be determined until the final submission at the end of the semester.

**Movie Analysis Papers**

Students will be required to complete 2 movie analysis papers during the semester. Papers are worth 50 points each. Students will choose a movie that has a character that is representative of a disorder that is discussed in the course/textbook. Students are to choose 2 different movies each depicting a different disorder. Papers should be in APA format (6th edition) and be 3 to 5 pages in length. Due dates are listed on course schedule. **(Paper 1 due October 13, Paper 2 due November 19)**
Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class meetings and participate in class activities and discussions. 50 points will be awarded from class participation.

Course Policies

- The student is responsible for the material in the textbook and the material covered in the lecture. All material may not be covered in class, so keep up with your reading.
- Please read material prior to class so that you are prepared for class discussions.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of the class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- Please be on time and make sure to TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
- Attendance to all class meetings is expected. If you find it necessary to miss class, please note that you will be held responsible for all material covered during the missed class.
- All papers should be in APA format (6th edition).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F in that assignment.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, November 6 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Grade Appeals**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
## Course Schedule/Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 27</td>
<td>Course Introduction, Overview of Assignments/Class Expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 1</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology Historical and Modern Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 3</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 8</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Assessment and Diagnosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 10</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 1 Chapters 1-3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 15</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Trauma-and Stressor Related Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 17</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Trauma-and Stressor Related Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 22</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Somatic Symptom, Dissociative, and Factitious Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 24</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Somatic Symptom, Dissociative, and Factitious Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 29</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Bipolar and Depressive Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 1</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Bipolar and Depressive Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 6</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2 ONLINE Chapters 4-6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 8</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Feeding and Eating Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 13</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Feeding and Eating Disorders</td>
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**PAPER 1 DUE**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 15</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Gender Dysphoria, Sexual Dysfunctions, and Paraphilic Disorders</td>
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| Tuesday, October 20 | Chapter 8: Gender Dysphoria, Sexual Dysfunctions, and Paraphilic Disorders  
*JOURNALS DUE* |
| Thursday, October 22 | Chapter 9: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders |
| Tuesday, October 27 | Chapter 9: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders |
| Thursday, October 29 | **EXAM 3 ONLINE Chapters 7-9** |
| Tuesday, November 3 | Chapter 11: Personality Disorders |
| Thursday, November 5 | Chapter 11: Personality Disorders |
| Tuesday, November 10 | Chapter 10: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders |
| Thursday, November 12 | Chapter 10: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders |
| Tuesday, November 17 | Chapter 12: Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct, and Elimination Disorders |
| Thursday, November 19 | Chapter 12: Neurodevelopmental, Disruptive, Conduct, and Elimination Disorders  
PAPER 2 DUE |
| Tuesday, November 24 | **EXAM 3 ONLINE Chapters 10-12** |
| Thursday, November 26 | THANKSGIVING- NO CLASS |
| Tuesday, December 1 | Chapter 15: Legal and Ethical Issues  
*JOURNALS DUE* |
| Date to be announced | **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM ONLINE** |