PSYC 3363.002: Abnormal Psychology

Instructor: Troy Martinez, Psy.D.
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Semester: Spring 2016
Class Location: CI-126
Class Time: 4:20 - 6:50 pm
       Wednesdays

Office: Bay Hall, Room 356
Office Hours: Mondays 3:15 - 4:15 pm
            Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:15 pm … and/or by appointment

Course Description: The focus of this course will be an introduction to the study of abnormal psychology. The course studies the etiology and characteristics of the major categories of psychopathology, including current research findings, models of abnormality, and treatment practices.

Student Learning Outcomes:
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.


Additional Required Reading: [limited to select articles distributed in class]

Grading: Final course grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned during the semester. There are 315 points possible. Grades are based on the following:
A = 100 - 90% (315-283 points), B = 89 - 80% (282-252 pts), C = 79 - 70% (251-220 pts), D = 69 - 60% (219-189 pts), F = 59% - below (188 pts - below).

➢ Test 1 = 50 pts
➢ Test 2 = 50 pts
➢ Test 3 = 50 pts
➢ Test 4 = 50 pts
➢ Test 5 (Final) = 50 pts
➢ Written Essay Paper = 50 pts
➢ Class Attendance = 1 pt per entire class attendance (max 15)

Tests may include M/C, T-F, matching, or short answer questions. Lectures, guest speakers, and Power Point sets, required readings will be used in test construction. Tests are not cumulative. Grades will be available ASAP but no later than one week from the
date a test was given.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism and “cheating on tests” will be handled according to university policy (see current University Catalog and Student Handbook). Tape recording of lectures, guest speakers, or other class activities is prohibited without prior permission from the instructor. Exceptions can be made in advance for students with disabilities and/or special circumstances.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall #116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations for this directed independent study, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

**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 the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process.** 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, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Missed Tests:** Make-up tests are given only under special circumstances; thus, you are strongly advised to be present for all tests. At the discretion of the instructor, make-up tests may be allowed if I am given notice of a personal emergency prior to the test or as soon as reasonably possible after the emergency, or other special circumstances. Make-up tests are only given immediately after (same date) as the final exam. If you are a student-athlete, inform me immediately and provide a schedule of anticipated absences.

**Class Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance is expected and required. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all material covered during your absence, including changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. You should gather this information from your peers in the course rather than from the instructor. Class attendance for the entire period can earn you 1 point per class (full attendance) for a max of 15 points.

**Classroom Etiquette and Beyond:** Our learning environment will be best served when everyone adheres to a few basic courtesies. Do not talk with your neighbors during lectures or relevant classroom discussions. Do not walk into class late or leave early.
unless I am given prior notice or you have an emergency. Do not gather belongings until class is dismissed. Turn off cell phones and pagers before class. Read assignments in advance and be prepared. Pay attention. Ask questions. Only notify me of an emergency when one really exists. But remember: Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.

Withdrawal/Incomplete: The last day you may drop this class is Friday, April 8, 2016; you must complete necessary paperwork yourself. An “Incomplete” grade is given only with permission from the instructor. You may request an Incomplete 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.

Written Essay: You are required to write an essay paper due at Class #12 (April 18), handed in hard-copy to the instructor before or after class. Entitle the essay “Abnormal Psychology: Spring 2016 Class Paper” and DO NOT forget to provide your name just under this heading. Your essay topic will be assigned to you no later than February 3 (class #3). Your written paper must be a minimum of 2 single-space pages and maximum of 7 pages; specific length will be determined by sufficiency of your response to the assigned topic question. Remember to proof read and check punctuation and grammar before handing in this written document.

Guest Speakers: Guest speakers are typically scheduled in advance of each semester. However, given that each guest is a working professional, it is possible that unanticipated scheduling conflicts will occur. This will require an adjustment to our schedule.

Course Schedule: [Note: I reserve the right to modify presentation or sequencing of topics as necessary]

Class #1 – January 20, 2016
  Syllabus Review
  Abnormal Psychology: Past & Present (Ch. 1)
  Research in Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 2)

Class #2 – Jan 27
  Models of Abnormality (Ch. 3)
  Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment (Ch. 4)

Class #3 – February 3
  Test 1
  Assignment of Written Essay Topics

Class #4 – Feb 10
  Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders (Ch. 5)

Class #5 – Feb 17
  Disorders of Trauma and Stress (Ch. 6)
Class #6 – Feb 24

Depressive and Bipolar Disorders & Treatments (Ch. 7 & 8)

Class #7 – March 2

Test 2

Eating Disorders (Ch. 11)

Class #8 – March 9

Suicide (Ch. 9)
Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms (Ch. 10)

** March 16 – NO CLASS: Spring Break Holiday

Class #9 – March 23

Substance Use and Addictive Disorders (Ch. 12)

Class #10 – March 30

Test 3

Disorders of Sex and Gender (Ch. 13)

Class #11 – April 6

Schizophrenia (Ch. 14)
Treatments for Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Disorders (Ch. 15)

Class #12 – Apr 13

Personality Disorders (Ch. 16)
DUE: Written Essay

Class #13 – Apr 20

Test 4

Disorders Common Among Children and Adolescents (Ch. 17)

Class #14 – Apr 27

Disorders of Aging and Cognition (Ch. 18)
Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession (Ch. 19)
Intro to Forensic Psychology (supplementary material)

** Final Exam (Test 5) will be given per the designated final exam schedule developed by the University.