



PSY240H1S Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Winter 2022

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Taryn E. Grieder, M.Ed., Ph.D.

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Office hours: By appointment – video conference or phone appointments available

Teaching Assistants:

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Course information: Course discussion/participation will be completed on Quercus. Students will have the opportunity for synchronous online office hours to ask questions and clarifications about course content. Students need the ability to read and edit PDFs or Powerpoint slides and use Quercus for submission of most assessments.

Course Description, Goals, and Prerequisites

This course studies clinical syndromes ranging from the mild patterns of personality pathology to the more severe disorders. In addition, the techniques involved in the assessment, diagnosis and prevention of disorders and the types of therapy available will be examined.

Topics include the definition of abnormal behaviour, causes and treatment of psychological disorders, diagnosis and assessment, incidence and prevalence, biological and psychological interventions, prevention, and legal and ethical issues.

Objectives:

The goals of the course are to gain 1) knowledge of theoretical approaches for diagnosing abnormal psychological behaviour; 2) knowledge of the nature and interactions of abnormal psychology with the individual and society; 3) knowledge of the predisposing factors, symptoms, diagnostic criteria, and pathological features of psychological disorders; 4) an understanding of the range of treatment options available for clinical syndromes.

Note about prerequisites: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met **all** prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the A&S Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED. No waivers will be granted.

Reading Material

The recommended (but not required) textbook for this course is:
Barlow DH, Durand VM, Stewart SH, Lalumière ML (2020) *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*, 6th Canadian Edition, Toronto: Nelson Education. ISBN-13: 978-0176873219

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Participation - 10% - ongoing

Commentary Assignment - 20% - Feb 16th

Midterm Assessment - 25% - March 2nd

Case Study Assignment - 20% - March 30th

Final Assessment - 25% - TBA (April 11th - 29th)

Lectures: PowerPoint and PDF slides will be posted before class on the date stated in the course schedule (found below). These slides should be downloaded and/or printed to facilitate with note taking. Please note that if you do not understand a particular concept as it is presented, please ask questions! It is your responsibility to let us know if you do not understand a particular concept or idea.

Any posted lecture recordings and slides are only for the exclusive use of enrolled students, for their personal learning. Lecture recordings and slides are not to be shared in any way beyond enrolled students.

Participation: There will be short reflection questions given for each class to be completed online. Students will reflect on a topic covered in class, applying the course material to their response. Students will have at least 24 hours to respond to these discussion questions on Quercus (see the course schedule, below).

Online assessments: There will be two online assessments in this course. The assessments will have a combination of multiple choice and written response questions (with a strict word limit). Written response questions will involve some definitions and descriptions of psychological concepts, and also some analysis of case studies in which you will be asked to analyze fictitious patients, diagnose their most likely disorders, and suggest a first course of treatment. On the assessment day you will have 3 hours to complete the assessment on Quercus, individually, using your lecture slides and notes only, and writing *in your own words*. You will not need to provide citations and should not be using any outside sources. The assessments are not cumulative and will cover lecture material only. It is expected that students will use their own course materials (ex. Lecture notes) to assist in their writing the tests, which will be more about your ability to *apply* your knowledge than rote memorization.

Case Study Assignment: You will analyze a real or fictional person with one of the psychological disorders discussed in this course. Please see the case study assignment outline for further details, which is available for download on Quercus.

Commentary Assignment: The journal club assignment is a commentary on a recent original research article (aka experimental study) of your choice that examines an issue related to the course (ie. is an experiment that produced new research on a psychological disorder). Please see the commentary assignment outline for further details, which is available for download on Quercus.

Course Webpage/Quercus

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular basis.

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact the instructor and TAs as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

Course Policies

Missed Assessments/Medical Documentation/ACORN Self-Declaration Tool

If you are unable to complete a test or assignment, you should submit an absence self-declaration as soon as possible to the instructor. The absence self-declaration tool is available on ACORN and applies for both medical and non-medical circumstances.

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate missing a major course activity (such as an assessment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day, up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied for late assignments. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counselor on behalf of the Department. Any term work that will be handed in after the final day of classes is subject to a petition for extension of term work. This petition should be filed with the student's College Registrar's Office.

Ouriginal

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Ouriginal reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

We will be using Ouriginal in this course for submission of your assignments and applied learning activities. You have the option to opt out of using this service. If you wish to do so, please email me.

Course Outline/Schedule

Every effort will be made to manage the course as stated. However, adjustments may be necessary in these unprecedented times. If so, students will be advised and alterations announced on Quercus prior to implementation.

Date	Topic	Related Textbook Chapter
Jan 12	Introduction/Overview Theories of Abnormality	Chapters 1 & 2
Jan 19	Diagnosis and Research Methods	Chapters 3 & 4
Jan 26	Anxiety Disorders Health Psychology	Chapter 5 Chapter 18
Feb 2	Somatic Symptom Disorders Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Feb 9	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8
Feb 16	Personality Disorders Schizophrenia Commentary Assignment due	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
Feb 23	Study Break – no classes	
Mar 2	Midterm Assessment	
Mar 9	Substance Use Disorders	Chapter 11
Mar 16	Eating Disorders Sexual & Gender Disorders	Chapter 12 Chapter 11
Mar 23	Developmental Disorders Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
Mar 30	Therapies & Prevention Case Study Assignment due	Chapter 17
Apr 6	Mental Disorders & the Law	
April 11-29	Final Exam (Date TBA)	

Academic Resources

Accessibility Needs:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without

registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Writing:

As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to produce well-written assignments. The university provides its students with multiple resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at www.writing.utoronto.ca/. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

Other Resources

Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)

Academic Success Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>)

Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>)