



Department of Psychology

**Psychology 385 (L20) – Introduction to Abnormal Psychology**

**Spring Session 2006**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Stephanie Cassin</b>	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	<b>A140</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	210-9438	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Monday
<b>Email:</b>	secassin@ucalgary.ca		11:00-1:45
<b>Office:</b>	ED Block 064		Wednesday
<b>Office Hours:</b>	After Class <i>or</i>		11:00-1:45
	By Appointment		

**Course Description and Goals**

This course will provide an overview of the field of *adult* psychopathology, including the classification, etiology (cause), assessment (measurement), treatment, and prognosis (possible outcome) of a variety of psychological disorders. Some of the topics covered will include mood and anxiety disorders, psychophysiological disorders, eating disorders, sexual disorders, substance use disorders, schizophrenia, and personality disorders. A student successfully completing this course will be able to discuss the characteristic symptoms of each disorder, as well as current psychological theories, research, and treatment related to the problem area. The format of the class will be primarily lectures, class discussion, group activities, and brief video clips.

**Required Text**

Sarason, I.G. & Sarason, B.R. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: The problem of maladaptive behavior* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.). N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

This textbook is available in the University Bookstore. A study guide is also available, but not required.

**Other Resources**

Outlines of lectures will be made available on **Blackboard** (blackboard.ucalgary.ca) so as to facilitate note taking. The outlines will highlight **ONLY** the main points of the lectures and are not meant to replace class attendance. Class attendance is essential to obtain full coverage of the subjects.

**Evaluation**

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to do assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions and group activities. There will be three non-cumulative examinations in the course (75 minutes each). These will include material covered in the textbook as well as the lectures. All examinations will consist of factual and applied multiple choice and short-answer questions. Each exam will be worth 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of your final grade. Please note that on some topics the lectures will be the only source of information; therefore, regular attendance is important for success in this course. The course notes are provided on Blackboard to assist the student in understanding the material and are **not** intended to replace class attendance. Students having difficulties should approach the course instructor as soon as possible.

### Overall Evaluation

EXAM	DATE	CHAPTERS	WEIGHTING
Midterm 1	May 31	1-4	1/3 of grade
Midterm 2	June 14	5-8, 11	1/3 of grade
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar (June 28 - 30)	9, 10, 12, 14, 17	1/3 of grade
Overall Grade			100%

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.). Because students have the opportunity to earn two (2%) bonus credits for research participation (see below), **NO** exceptions will be made to the grading system.

**Tentative Lecture Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter(s)</b>
May 15	Introduction, Historical Background, & Research	Ch. 1
May 17	Theoretical Perspectives	Ch. 2
<b>May 22</b>	<b>No Class</b> – Victoria Day	
May 24	The Therapeutic Enterprise	Ch. 3
May 29	Classification & Assessment	Ch. 4
<b>May 31</b>	<b>EXAM #1</b> (Covers Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4) Stress, Coping & Maladaptive Behaviour	Ch. 5
June 5	Mood Disorders	Ch. 11
June 7	Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 8
June 12	Disorders of Bodily Maladaptation & Preoccupation	Ch. 6 & 7
<b>June 14</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b> (Covers Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8, 11) Sexual Variants & Disorders	Ch. 9
June 19	Substance-Related Disorders	Ch. 14
June 21	Personality Disorders	Ch. 10
June 26	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders Society's Response	Ch. 12 Ch. 17
<b>June 28 - 30</b>	<b>EXAM #3</b> (Covers Ch. 9, 10, 12, 14,17) Registrar Scheduled	

**University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives**

1) This course addresses the following course competencies:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Analysis of problems
- Effective oral communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Abstract reasoning and its applications
- Insight and intuition in generating knowledge
- Interpretive and assessment skills

With the following course characteristics:

- Considerable class discussion and group activities—students are encouraged to think critically about the course material, raise questions, and present their opinions
- Video clips of individuals suffering from psychological disorders—students are encouraged to identify symptoms and to offer their diagnostic impressions based on their assessment of the symptoms
- A combination of factual and applied test questions

2) The course addresses the following curriculum redesign features:

- A defined interdisciplinary component
- An international component
- An experiential learning component relevant to the program objectives
- Integration of research

With the following course characteristics:

- Discussion of the biological, psychological, and social determinants of psychopathology (biopsychosocial model), making the class multidisciplinary in nature
- Discussion of cultural variations in psychopathology, as well as variations across genders
- Incorporation of class discussion and group activities, allowing students to apply the course material
- Discussion of recent research pertaining to the etiology and treatment of psychological disorders

## **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances which warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

## **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

## **Academic Accommodation**

*It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation.* If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. Note that the lecturer must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

## Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

## Bonus Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally-approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to an individual's final grade. Information about current experiments is on the Experimentrix website at <http://experimentrix.com/uc>. The read.me link at that site provides a guide to using the system and assigning your credits. The last day to participate in research and **ALLOCATE YOUR CREDITS TO YOUR COURSES** is June 26, 2006.

## Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

## Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is May 17, 2006. The last day to **withdraw from this course** is June 27, 2006.