



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 385 (L01) – Introduction to Abnormal Psychology**  
**Winter 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Deborah Brown	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	MFH 164
<b>Phone:</b>	403-662-3876	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Tues 6:30 – 9:15 pm
<b>Email:</b>	dlbrow@ucalgary.ca	<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Sarah Watkins
<b>Office:</b>	A257D	<b>TA Email:</b>	sjwatkin@ucalgary.ca
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	<b>TA Phone:</b>	403-220-8229

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### **Course Description and Goals**

This course surveys the field of adult psychopathology. It reviews the history of psychopathology and covers symptoms (what the disorders look like), diagnosis (how we classify disorders), etiology (what causes disorders), assessment (how we measure disorders), treatment (how we intervene), and social implications (the effects that disorders have on the individual, their family and society) of mental disorders. After completing this course students should be able to: discuss selected psychological disorders with regard to their classification, assessment and treatment, discuss causes of selected psychological disorders from an integrative perspective, locate current research articles addressing pertinent issues in abnormal psychology and provide citations and references according to APA format.

### **Required Text**

Barlow, D. H., Durand, M. V., & Stewart, S.H. (2009). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach* (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition). Toronto: Nelson Education.

Available for purchase at the University of Calgary Bookstore

### **Evaluation**

Component Weighting toward final grade (Due date)

Midterm Exam            35% (February 24)

Final Exam                45% (To be scheduled by the Registrar)

Assignment #1            10% (due February 10)

Assignment #2            10% (due March 24)

### **Exams:**

Exams will be two hours in length and consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. For both exams, you will be responsible for the **lecture material (videos, guest lectures, assigned readings, etc.) and the material covered in the textbook.**

**Assignment #1: "Abnormal Psychology in the Movies" (10% of final grade)**

This assignment will involve watching a popular film that depicts some form of psychopathology. In your paper, you will provide a comprehensive diagnosis of the character with the disorder, and discuss his/her symptoms, prognosis, and treatment. You will also reflect on the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about people with the particular disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general. Finally, you will be asked to discuss the film's characterization in light of the current understanding of this disorder. Does the movie reflect in an accurate way the abnormal behavior? This paper should not exceed four pages in length. A list of possible movies will be given to you. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Assignment #2: "Annotated Bibliography" (10% of final grade)**

For this assignment, you will develop an annotated bibliography of four scholarly articles on a specific topic in abnormal psychology. The goal of this assignment is for you to gain a more thorough understanding of a research issue in the area of abnormal psychology than is possible through reading the required readings only. This is also an opportunity to learn more about a topic that the class covers briefly or not at all. In a sense, you will become a mini-expert in one topic. You will be graded on the quality of the articles you choose, the quality of your annotation, and the quality of your criticism – negative or positive. Use only articles from peer-reviewed journals. Most journals published by the American Psychological Association are peer reviewed. This assignment should not exceed four pages in length. You must include a photocopy of the abstract of the articles you have chosen to summarize. More details on this assignment will be provided in class and a teaching assistant will be available to assist you with this assignment.

**Please note:**

- Exams will NOT be cumulative.
- Late assignments will NOT be accepted without an official university medical excuse.
- Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
- A failing grade may be assigned to any student who fails to complete one or more of the exams.
- Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official university medical excuse (see University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled exam or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. Any medical excuses must be accompanied by a note from a physician.

**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. In this course there will be **no** rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

## Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	
T Jan 13	History of Abnormal Behaviour/Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Chapters 1 & 2
T Jan 20	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis/Research Methods	Chapters 3 & 4
F Jan 23	Last day for registration and change of registration. No fee refunds after today.	
T Jan 27	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5
T Feb 3	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7
T Feb 10	<b>Assignment #1 due</b> - Eating Disorders	Chapter 8
T Feb 17	Reading Week – No classes Feb 15-22	
T Feb 24	<b>Midterm Exam</b> – Film to follow the exam	
T Mar 3	Developmental Disorders	Chapter 14
T Mar 10	Sexual Disorders and Gender Identity Disorder	Chapter 10
T Mar 17	Substance Abuse and Related Disorders	Chapter 11
T Mar 24	<b>Assignment #2 due</b> - Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
T Mar 31	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorder	Chapter 13
T Apr 7	Sleep Disorders – <i>Guest Speaker Dr. Charles Samuels</i>	Chapter 8
T Apr 14	Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 16
R Apr 16	Last day to allocate research participation credits.	
F Apr 17	Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	
Apr 20-30	<b>Final exams</b> (scheduled by the Registrar)	

**Note:** In addition to the chapters, there will be additional assigned readings posted for you on the Blackboard. Adjustments may be made to our class schedule and readings as required.

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 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 15 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 15 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 that 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 the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **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 the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 16, 2009**.

### **Student Organizations**

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

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@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 **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.