

PSYC 385
Abnormal Psychology
Winter 2021

Instructor:	Brandy Callahan	Lecture Location:	Same as 'office'
Phone:	403-220-7291	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF, 12:00-12:50
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Office Hours:	After class or by request		

Course Description

This course explores abnormal behaviour and experiences, their causes and treatment throughout the lifespan (though adult psychopathology will be emphasized). The course will cover assessments, diagnosis, characteristics, and biological and environmental factors affecting major psychological disorders. Psychosocial and pharmacological therapies will also be discussed. Lectures will cover the following modules:

Module 1	Neurodevelopmental disorders
Module 2	Mood disorders
Module 3	Anxiety and stress disorders
Module 4	Psychotic, dissociative and somatic disorders
Module 5	Disorders of eating, addiction and sexuality
Module 6	Neurocognitive disorders
Module 7	Personality disorders

Course Format

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class (MWF, 12:00-12:50 pm) as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class, with the exception of two lectures (Feb 1 and Feb 3) which will be pre-recorded and posted to D2L.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify and describe the biological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors contributing to the development, maintenance and understanding of adult psychopathology.	Quizzes and exams	1	I
Identify and describe different brain and mental illnesses including their classification, causes, symptoms, and diagnostic criteria.	Quizzes, exams, written assignment	1,2,4,7	C

Consider and discuss ethical and social issues (e.g., stigma, stereotypes, etc.) related to mental health and illness.	Quizzes and exams	1,6	I
Demonstrate knowledge of methods related to the prevention and treatment of mental health problems.	Quizzes and exams	1,2,4,7	I
Identify similarities and differences between disorders and/or disorder subtypes within/between different diagnostic categories.	Quizzes and exams, written assignment	1,2	C
Describe how the conceptualization and classification of mental disorders has evolved and continues to evolve over time.	Quizzes and exams	1	I

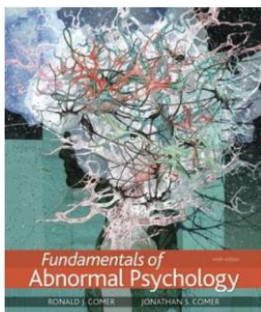
Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Prerequisites

Psyc 200 (Principles of Psychology I) and Psyc 201 (Principles of Psychology II).



Required Text

Comer, R.J. & Comer, J.S. (2019). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (9th Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Available at the U of C bookstore, through University libraries, or as an e-book.

Assessment Methods

Quizzes (5% each): A quiz will be given at the end of each of the seven modules to assess knowledge of the content of that module only (i.e., will be non-cumulative). On quiz days, a lecture will be given for the first 20 minutes of class, then the quiz will be released at 12:20 and students will have an opportunity to complete it in the remaining 30 minutes of class time. If you wish, you may also begin the quiz at a later time; regardless of when you choose to begin the quiz, you will only have 30 minutes to complete each quiz, within the allotted 24-hour time frame. This means you may begin the quiz at any time during the 24-hour window, but will only have 30 minutes to complete it. Each quiz will cover content from the entire module including content presented in the lecture on the day of the quiz. Quizzes must be finished and submitted before the 12:20 pm deadline on the due date (no late submissions will be accepted without instructor approval). Quizzes will be multiple-choice and cover content from lectures within the associated modules.

Midterms (15% each): There will be two midterms, each covering content from all lectures up until the

day of the midterms. The second midterm, therefore, will be cumulative. There will be no lecture on midterm days. The midterms will be released at class time (i.e., noon on Friday February 12, and noon on Wednesday March 24). Students will have 3 hours to complete each midterm exam, within the allotted 24-hour time frame. This means students may begin the exams at any time during the 24-hour window, but will only have 3 hours to complete them. The exams must be finished and submitted before the noon deadline on the due date (no late submissions will be accepted). Midterm exams will be primarily multiple-choice, with a small number of very short answer questions (limited to a few words).

Movie assignment (10%): Students will select a movie from the list below, and write a brief review (2 double-spaced pages) from a psychopathological perspective. Students will: 1) briefly summarize the plot, name the character(s) with mental illness, and identify the suspected disorder(s); 2) comment on how accurately the disorder(s) is/are depicted, highlighting correct and incorrect aspects of the portrayal; 3) identify potential biological, social, and/or psychological factors present in the film that may have contributed to the development and/or maintenance of the disorder(s), or speculate on these if they are absent from the movie. Students may make other observations they feel are relevant. The assignment will be further discussed in class in early March. Without instructor approval, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends.

Students may choose from the list of movies listed below. These were chosen primarily because they are easily accessible to students through Netflix or library resources, however I recognize that they lack cultural diversity and tend to present a cookie-cutter type view of mental illness. Please contact me if you know of other movies that represent mental illness in broader cultural groups, or if you would like to write your assignment on a movie not listed here.

- I Am Sam (2001), available at the [Calgary Public Library](#)
- Silver Linings Playbook (2012), available on [Netflix](#)
- The Aviator (2004), available through the [University of Calgary Library](#)
- A Beautiful Mind (2001), available at the [Calgary Public Library](#)
- Smashed (2012), available through the [University of Calgary Library](#)
- Concussion (2015), available on [Netflix](#)
- Catch Me If You Can (2002), available on [Netflix](#) at through the [University of Calgary Library](#)

Final exam (25%): Students will have 4.5 hours to complete the final exam, within the allotted 24-hour time frame. This means students may begin the exam at any time during the 24-hour window, but will only have 4.5 hours to complete it. The exams must be finished and submitted before the deadline on the due date (no late submissions will be accepted). The final exam will be a mix of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions, and cover content from all lectures from the semester (i.e., will be cumulative).

“WHAT WILL BE ON THE EXAM?” Lectures may include content that is not found in the textbook, and similarly the textbook may include sections that are not covered in lectures. **Only material covered in lectures will be tested in quizzes and exams.** Thus, if a topic is covered in lecture, it may be included in a quiz or exam *even if it is not covered in the textbook*. For this reason, it is important that students attend all lectures and follow-up with the TA or instructor if a concept is not well-understood.

“ARE EXAMS OPEN-BOOK?” Quizzes and exams in this course are open book. For this course, ‘open book’ means that the use of class notes is permitted, and use of the textbook is permitted. The use of other online resources is prohibited. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam, either in person or electronically, during exams.

“WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS DURING AN EXAM?” The instructor and TA (manu.sharma1@ucalgary) will be available to answer quiz- and exam-related questions via email during business hours only (weekdays, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm). Questions emailed outside those hours will not be answered until the following business day. Thus, for quizzes or exams scheduled on a Friday, students are strongly encouraged to begin sufficiently early to allow time to reach the instructor or TA with any potential questions before the weekend.

“HOW CAN I ACCESS THE EXAMS?” Quizzes and exams will be released on D2L after class on the dates indicated below. They must be completed and submitted prior to the due date and time listed below.

Item	Weight	Released	Due	Format	Content
Quiz 1	5%	Jan 22, 12:20 pm	Jan 23, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 1
Quiz 2	5%	Feb 3, 12:20 pm	Feb 4, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 2
Midterm 1	15%	Feb 12, 12:00 pm (noon)	Feb 13, 12:00 pm (noon)	Multiple choice + short answer	All lectures to Feb 12
Quiz 3	5%	Feb 22, 12:20 pm	Feb 23, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 3
Quiz 4	5%	Mar 5, 12:20 pm	Mar 6, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 4
Quiz 5	5%	Mar 17, 12:20 pm	Mar 18, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 5
Midterm 2	15%	Mar 24, 12:00 pm (noon)	Mar 25, 12:00 pm (noon)	Multiple choice + short answer	All lectures to March 24
Quiz 6	5%	Mar 31, 12:20 pm	Apr 1, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 6
Movie assignment	10%	N/A	Apr 9, 11:59 pm	Essay	N/A
Quiz 7	5%	Apr 14, 12:20 pm	Apr 15, 12:20 pm	Multiple choice	Module 7
Final exam	25%	TBD	TBD	Multiple choice + short/long answer	All lectures

Contesting a grade

Students who wish to contest any graded course component are invited to contact the instructor **with a full detailed rationale and justification** of why they feel their work deserves to be reappraised. Consistent with the University of Calgary’s Academic regulations and policies, this must occur within 10 business days of being notified of their grade:

- **Reappraisal of Graded Term Work** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>
- **Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary’s reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

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.**

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topics, readings and tentative lecture schedule	
M Jan 04	<i>Winter term begins (block week January 4-8)</i>	
M Jan 11	MODULE 1 <i>Cover ch. 1, 2, 3, 14</i>	<i>Start of Classes</i>
		Introduction & welcome, syllabus details, brief history of abnormal psychology
W Jan 13		Models of abnormality, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
F Jan 15		Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
M Jan 18		Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder & Autism spectrum disorder
W Jan 20		Autism spectrum disorder & Intellectual disability
R Jan 21		<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>

F Jan 22		<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i> Intellectual disability wrap-up (20-min lecture only) Quiz 1 (5% of final grade; all Module 1 content)
M Jan 25	MODULE 2 Comer ch. 6, 7, 14	Unipolar depression
W Jan 27		Unipolar and bipolar depression
F Jan 29		<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i> Bipolar depression & Suicide
M Feb 1		Bipolar depression & Treatments for mood disorders *Will be posted asynchronously
W Feb 3		Treatments wrap-up (20-min lecture only) *Will be posted asynchronously Quiz 2 (5% of final grade; all Module 2 content)
F Feb 5	MODULE 3 Comer ch. 4, 5, 14	Anxiety and panic disorders
M Feb 8		Obsessive-compulsive disorder
W Feb 10		Post-traumatic stress disorder
F Feb 12		No lecture; Midterm 1 (15% of final grade; all content covered to date)
M Feb 15		<i>Alberta Family Day</i>
Feb 14-20		<i>Term Break, No Classes (University if Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)</i>
M Feb 22		Treatments for anxiety and stress disorders (20-min lecture only) Quiz 3 (5% of final grade; all Module 3 content)
W Feb 24	MODULE 4 Comer ch. 5, 8, 12	Somatic symptom disorders
F Feb 26		Somatic symptom disorders
M Mar 1		Schizophrenia (guest lecture: Dr. Elizabeth Collins)
W Mar 3		Schizophrenia & Dissociative disorders
F Mar 5		Dissociative disorders wrap-up (20-min lecture only) Quiz 4 (5% of final grade; all Module 4 content)
M Mar 8	MODULE 5 Comer ch. 9, 10, 11	Eating disorders (+written assignment details)
W Mar 10		Eating & Addictive disorders
F Mar 12		Addictive disorders
M Mar 15		Disorders of sexuality and sexual identity
W Mar 17		Disorders of sexuality and sexual identity wrap-up (20-min lecture only) Quiz 5 (5% of final grade; all Module 5 content)
F Mar 19	MODULE 6 Comer ch. 13	Personality disorders: Type A
M Mar 22		Personality disorders: Types A & B
W Mar 24		No lecture; Midterm 2 (15% of final grade; all content covered to date)
F Mar 26		Personality disorders: Types B & C
M Mar 29		Personality disorders: Type C
W Mar 31		Risk factors and treatment for personality disorders (20-min lecture only) Quiz 6 (5% of final grade; all Module 6 content)
F Apr 2		
M Apr 6		<i>Easter Monday, University Closed</i>

W Apr 7	MODULE 7 <i>Comer ch. 15</i>	Traumatic brain injury
F Apr 9		Aging, cognition and late-life mental health Written assignment due (10% of final grade)
M Apr 12		Mild cognitive impairment and dementia (guest lecture: Manu Sharma)
W Apr 14		Neurocognitive interventions (20-min lecture only) Quiz 7 (5% of final grade; all Module 7 content)
<i>R Apr 15</i>		<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>
<i>Apr. 19-29</i>		<i>Final Exam Period</i> Final Exam , exact date TBD (25% of final grade; all content covered to date)
<i>R Apr 30</i>		<i>End of Term</i>

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

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 **Thursday, April 15, 2021**.

Absence from a Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. Once approved by the instructor, a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is Thursday, January 21, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 22, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, April 15, 2021** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>