



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology

Psychology 431 (L60) – Current Issues in Psychopathology

Summer 2011 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Shervin Vakili, Ph.D.	Lecture Location:	SH 288
Phone:	403-944-2002	Lecture Days/Time:	M 17:00-22:30
Email:	vakilipsychological@gmail.com		

Office Hours: After class by appointment

Course Description and Goals

Discussion of current developments and controversies in the assessment, etiology and treatment of psychopathology. Emphasis will be on teaching students how to strengthen their critical thinking skills using controversial issues in the fields of abnormal and clinical psychology as a basis for discussion and debate. Course format will be lectures with a strong expectation for student involvement in class discussions. Students will be expected to engage in a formal presentation/debate for this course.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology
Psyc 385 - Abnormal Psychology

Required Text

Halgin, R. P. (2011). Taking sides: Clashing views in abnormal psychology (Sixth edition). MacGraw Hill, Iowa. The text is available for purchase at the U of C bookstore.

Attendance

Exam content will be based on the assigned readings from the textbook, and on any topic covered during lecture, this includes class presentations by your peers. This is a very compressed course; it is unlikely that students will be able to do well in this course if they miss any lectures. Changes in the syllabus are *probable* at the discretion of the instructor, due to the fact that the schedule typically gets adjusted after students sign up for their debates, and if students miss classes being up-to-date on new deadlines and/or material is entirely their responsibility. If you must be absent, please arrange to get notes from other classmates. Lecture notes will be posted on the blackboard AFTER each lecture. Students are allowed to audio-tape record my lectures for this course.

Evaluation

Grades for the mid-term, presentation, and final examination will be combined as raw scores (out of 30, 35, and 35 respectively) to come up with a grade out of 100. The FINAL percent

grade 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%).

- 30% of your mark will be based on a mid-term exam scheduled during class time. The exam will consist of short answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions.
- 35% of your mark is based on a class presentation/debate. A team of 2 people will debate another team of 2 people on a contentious issue in abnormal or clinical psychology. Detailed information on the debate format and expectations will be provided on BlackBoard. A position paper must be submitted at the time of the presentation and will contribute to the debate grade. Late papers will result in a loss of 10% on the overall debate grade; late papers will not be accepted after the final exam date.
- 35% of your mark is based on a final 2-hour exam scheduled by the Registrar during the final examination period. The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions from the class presentations and lectures.

No study guides such as textbooks, class notes, or internet will be permitted during exams including the final exam. No calculators or computers can be used during exam time and no listening devices will be allowed.

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%

Important dates

Date	
M July 4	Lecture begins.
F July 8	Last day for registration/change of registration and last day for course drop with tuition refund.
W Aug 17	Lecture ends.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic / Readings	Readings
M July 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course overview. Discussion of debate topics and debate format. Choosing of debate teams. Should DSM-V include video game addiction as a new category? What is abnormal Behaviour? How good is our current classification system? 	[Issue 12, Halgin]
M July 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate Teams announce and get approval for topics (come prepared with two topics). Projective Assessment techniques, theory and application (TAT, House/Tree/Person, Rorschach). Can inkblots be used to assess personality? 	[Lilienfeld, S. O., Wood, J. M., & Garb, H. N. (2001, May). What's wrong with this picture? <i>Scientific American</i>, 81-86.] (class handout) [Halgin Issue 9]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is alcoholism a disease? 	<p>[Chapter 1: Why Addiction is Not a Disease. In Peele (1989). <i>Diseasing of America; Addiction treatment out of control.</i> (pp.1-29). Lexington Books, Toronto (class handout)</p>
M July 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should individuals with Anorexia have the right to refuse life sustaining treatment? • ***Debate 1 & 2*** • Is Electroconvulsive Therapy Ethical? 	[Halgin, Issue 4]
M July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are blocked and recovered memories valid? • Is Ritalin overprescribed? <p>***Midterm Exam***</p>	<p>[Halgin, Issue 6]</p> <p>[Halgin, issue 11]</p>
M Aug 1	Alberta Civic Holiday – University Closed.	
M Aug 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are blocked and recovered memories valid? (Halgin, Issue 6) • Is pornography harmful to society? <p>***Debate 3 & 4***</p>	[class readings]
M Aug 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Prozac and Similar Antidepressants Safe & Effective? <p>*** Debates 5 , 6 & 7***</p>	[class readings]
Aug 19-20	Final Exam – Scheduled by the Registrar	

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 403-220-8237. 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

Students who miss a term test due to a valid and documented official University reason (illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction) have 48 hours to contact AND schedule a makeup test with the instructor. The onus is on the student to have a makeup test approved and scheduled within 48 hours, or the makeup test option is forfeited. The same process applies to missed makeup tests. However, the makeup test cannot differ in weight (% of final grade) from the missed test. Except in extenuating circumstances (a documented official University medical excuse), a makeup test must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test. Absence from a final exam, and deferral of a final exam, are handled by Enrolment Services (see http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final). Students absent from a final exam must notify the instructor within 48 hours and must then apply for an official deferred final exam no later than the deadline indicated in the Examinations Schedule. Make-up exams will be different in form and content from the regularly written class exams.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

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 (2) 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 **August 17th, 2011.**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

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 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca

(<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **July 8, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 17, 2011**.