

Psychological Disorders (PSY 342) – Spring 2012

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Office Hours: I'm in class from 9:00-10:50 am and 12:00-12:50 pm on M-W-F, and this course on Tues/Thurs. So, I'm generally in my office 11:00-11:45 am and 1:00-3:00 pm on M-W-F and 11:00 am --3:00 pm Tues/Thurs. Feel free to schedule a specific time to meet.

Readings: www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/PSY342

Course Objectives, Goals, and Content: The primary goal in this course is to understand the various forms of psychological disorder and mental illness currently recognized in clinical psychology and psychiatry. Specifically, for each disorder, you should be able to describe the symptoms or experiences that indicate the presence of the disorder, what the major theories or explanations are for the existence of the disorder in particular individuals and not others, and what the major treatments are for the disorder. You will be reading about each of the major mental and emotional disorders, yet I think it is important to see what the various disorders look like as manifested in actual people. So, for nearly all of the major disorders we will be viewing very brief film clips of people who have been diagnosed with a particular disorder. It is important to remember that these individuals may display key symptoms, but they are still individuals and not everything about each of them is true for all people with a similar disorder.

One potential concern in an abnormal psychology course is that students will “recognize” themselves or someone else in the descriptions of various disorders. That is, they may come to believe they or someone they know has one or more of the disorders we cover in this course. If you have concerns at any point in the course regarding the mental and emotional well-being of yourself or a loved one, please utilize the free counseling services on campus (786-3856). Also, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.NAMI.org) provides information and support. There is a midlands SC chapter, with local meetings, that can be found through the national site.

Classroom Behavior and Attendance: Attendance is not taken, but we will be relying on classroom presentation and discussion to flesh out the brief materials read prior to class. Coming in late, leaving early, talking, or making noise (including forgetting to mute the ringer on your cell phone) can be disruptive to me and to those seated nearby. If you have something to say to your neighbor, pass a note because doing so does not create noise. However, whispering or talking to neighbors is disruptive and I will call students on those behaviors. If you must leave early, please sit near the door so that you can leave with the least amount of disruption. Also, please visit the restroom prior to class. It is disruptive when students casually stroll out of class for a drink of water or to go to the restroom.

Special Arrangements: If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible.

In Case of an Emergency School Closing: If we have an unexpected evacuation or closing of the college, continue to follow the assigned reading schedule. If an exam falls on a cancelled day, the exam will be held the next time the class meets (so be prepared to take the exam). If the college closes for a substantial length of time, monitor your college e-mail account for information and contact the instructor via e-mail at Michael@mindingthemind.com

Exams (200 possible points): Primarily, exams will consist of short-answer items, along with an occasional multiple choice item or two. There are a total of five exams in the course, each worth 50 possible points. Although each exam will focus on the material covered since the previous exam, material from any point earlier in the course may also appear. In other words, there is a cumulative quality to each exam. Because there are always unforeseen emergencies causing students to miss a particular exam, only the highest four exam grades will be counted for each student. That way, if a student misses an exam for any reason, that is the exam grade that will be dropped. If you know prior to an exam that you will not be able to attend, discuss the issue with me as soon as possible so that we can try to schedule an alternative testing session.

Optional Brief Bonus Report (5 points). This is an entirely optional opportunity to add up to 5 points to your total score in the course. Online there are numerous forums and support groups for individuals and families affected by psychological disorders and mental illness. The assignment is to select one such online resource where people affected by mental illness post their experiences, concerns, questions, etc. and spend some time reading those posts and responses. In an informal report: What aspects of what you encountered fit what we learned in this course? What aspects did not seem to fit? What surprised you most? Start by providing the link to the site and a very brief description of the online community.

Grading: Your grade in the course will be based on a total of 200 possible points:

180-200 (90-100%) = A	176-179 (88-89%) = B+	160-175 (80-87%) = B
156-159 (78-79%) = C+	140-155 (70-77%) = C	120-139 (60-69%) = D
		less than 120 = F

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
January 19	Introduction to the Course
January 24	What Makes a Disorder? Historical Perspectives on Disordered Behavior
January 26	Classification and Diagnosis of Psychological Disorders
January 31	Theories and Treatments of Psychological Disorders
February 2	Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
February 7	Panic, Phobia, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
February 9	Exam 1
February 14	Unipolar Major Depression
February 16	Bipolar Disorder
February 21	Suicide
February 23	Factitious, Somatoform, & Psychophysiological Disorders
February 28	Eating Disorders
March 1	Exam 2
March 6, 8	No Class – Spring Break!
March 13	Substance Abuse and Dependence
March 15	Sexual Dysfunction
March 20	Paraphilia and Gender Identity Disorder
March 22	Schizophrenia
March 27	Exam 3
March 29	Dissociative Disorders
April 3	Cognitive Disorders: Amnesic Disorders, Delirium, Dementia
April 5	Personality Disorders
April 10	Personality Disorders (<i>continued</i>)
April 12	Exam 4
April 17	Disorders During Childhood: Elimination Disorders, Conduct Disorders, ADHD
April 19	Disorders During Childhood: Autism, Developmental Disorders, Mental Retardation
April 24	Mental Health, Society, and the Law
April 26	<i>Course Wrap-Up: Including How Mad Are You?</i> Optional Bonus Assignment Due
May 3	Exam 5 (Thursday, 8:30 am)