

# ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

## PSY 2200

### Spring 2013

## **Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Laura Seligman

Office: 1880b University Hall

Email Address: Use the email function on our class home page

Office Hours: Monday 9-2 and By appointment:

If you have questions do not hesitate contact me or your TA. Do not wait until you do poorly on an exam – come see us beforehand.

Teaching Assistant: Tory Durham

Office Hours: TBA

Email Address: Use the email function on our class home page

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the SCIENTIFIC STUDY of abnormal human behavior. The course will serve as an introduction to the definition, etiology, and treatment of abnormal behavior. In addition, we will examine theories of abnormal behavior, the cultural implications of abnormal behavior, and the (currently changing) diagnostic (DSM-IV/DSM-V) classification of abnormal behavior.

## **Course Goals and Objectives**

The primary purpose of the course is to help you think differently about abnormal behavior and its treatment by understanding how psychologists have applied the scientific method to understand behavior. You should expect to have your preconceptions of psychopathology (the term psychologists commonly use for abnormal behavior) and psychotherapy challenged and you should be critically analyzing your lay theories of behavior throughout the course.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Discuss the ways psychologists use to determine whether a behavior is abnormal or not and to apply this knowledge to an example behavior or case study.
2. Identify the methods that psychologists use to research abnormal behavior, including being able to read a research study and classify the approach taken. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses to the various methodologies and choose the method best suited to studying a particular question.
3. Identify the theories that have been used to explain and derive treatments for abnormal behavior (both current and historical) and to critically analyze the scientific data for and against such theories.

4. List examples of the various methods that psychologists use to assess and diagnose abnormal behavior and examples of the types of information that can be gained using each method.
5. Identify the most common disorders included in the DSM, including the defining symptoms of each disorder and apply this knowledge to arrive at an accurate diagnosis for (beginning level) case examples.
6. Identify common ethical and legal issues faced by psychologists and provide a well-supported argument about ethical decision-making when provided with a case example.
7. Identify some questions that are currently facing the field of clinical psychology and the best methods to address these questions.

## Prerequisite

Psychology 1010 (Principles of Psychology)

## Required Reading Text

We will be using digital textbook bundled with Aplia

The text we will be using is:

Barlow, D.H. & Durand, V. M. (2012). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth



## How to access the etext and Aplia Assignments

### Registration

Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in to a single site to access your Cengage materials and courses.

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**7FWA-M89Q-B8D2**) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.  
**If you don't have an account,** click the *Create a New Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **7FWA-M89Q-B8D2**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

### Payment

**Online:** Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the CengageBrain website.

**Bookstore:** Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 01/27/2013.

## Computer Skill Requirements

All students should be comfortable and able to navigate online. If you do not have strong computer skills, I do not recommend taking this course. A basic level of computer skills is a prerequisite and I will not be teaching these skills in the course. If you have never taken an on-line course before I highly recommend visiting [http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help\\_desk/help.htm](http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help_desk/help.htm) to learn how to work with the on-line course system.

- For this course you will need to be competent in the following skills:
  - Viewing/navigating webpages
  - Sending & receiving email messages
  - Opening and viewing video files

## Correspondence Policies & Procedures

**Responding to Your E-mail:** I have set aside specific times in my weekly schedule when I will respond to student e-mail from this class. I will send out responses to your email questions and comments on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings.

**Consider all e-mails to me and your TA professional correspondence. This means that you should proof-read all correspondence and use proper grammar and spelling. Remember to use a grammar and spell-checker before sending your e-mails to us. If your spelling and/or grammar interfere with our being able to understand what you want to say, we will need to ask for clarification and this will delay your ability to get the information you requested.**

## Course Expectations

Here are some of my general expectations:

- It is expected that you will keep up in reading the textbook and the lecture notes throughout the entire course.
- It is expected that you will complete all course assignments in a timely manner.

- It is expected that you will explore all the multimedia materials associated with each chapter.
- It is expected that all correspondence for the course will be written in a professional style. This means that you should use proper spelling and grammar and that you should refrain from using informal speech (e.g., abbreviations) and language.
- It is expected that you will plan appropriately so as to have your discussion postings, aplia assignments, and exams completed by the designated deadlines. Meeting the designated deadlines is entirely your responsibility. **Please note: The deadlines for the discussion questions and aplia assignments are the LAST day you can complete the assignment. You can complete the assignments any time before the deadline; therefore, if you wait until the last day and then have problems you will not get credit. The same is true for exams – there is a two day period in which you can take each exam. If you wait until the last minute and have problems you won't be able to retake the exam. I strongly suggest that you complete assignments early and take all exams on the first day they are offered. If you choose not to follow this advice and have a problem there will be nothing I can do for you.**
- **IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL TAKE ALL EXAMS WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF COURSE NOTES OR THE TEXT BOOK (I.E., THE EXAMS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE OPEN BOOK). IF YOU USE ANY BOOKS OR NOTES DURING ANY EXAM, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.**

**Absenteeism:** This is NOT a self-paced, self-timed course. This course is designed to be a successive progression from one chapter to the next. If you have a work or family emergency that interferes with your ability to participate or meet deadlines in this class, you need to notify me by e-mail ASAP. Such events may necessitate dropping the course.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** Please be aware that any instances of cheating will result in an automatic "F" for the course. You will also be referred to the college Dean with the possible sanction of expulsion from the University. Please do not cheat, it is not worth it.

**REMEMBER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL TAKE ALL EXAMS WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF COURSE NOTES OR THE TEXT BOOK (I.E., THE EXAMS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE OPEN BOOK). USE OF ANY BOOKS OR NOTES DURING ANY EXAM WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF CHEATING AND YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.**

**Professional Courtesy:** It is my expectation that you will act, perform, and conduct yourself as a true professional. This includes the content and style of your online communication and the nature of communication with me. Profanity, vulgar or offensive words or phrases are unacceptable. I will be the judge of what is offensive as well as the penalty for such offenses.

## **Additional Course Support**

**Technical Assistance:** I am not a computer expert. Therefore, if you are having technical problems, please contact the eLearning Help Desk number 866-886-5336 or use the online chat system.

**Notification of Technical Problems:** Technical problems with your computer are not a legitimate reason for failing to complete assignments or exams by posted deadlines. There are many computer options available to you, such as the many University of Toledo computer labs and the computers at public libraries. To find out the hours of the University of Toledo computer labs, you can call this number: 419-530-4636. Students are responsible for finding their own alternative methods or locations to complete exams and assignments by the given deadlines. **If you have a technical problem during an exam that results in your being unable to complete the exam, please call the number for technical assistance right away and complete the exam as soon as the problem is addressed. If you do not get someone, leave a message to verify that you attempted to get help in order to complete the exam immediately.** If you do not follow these steps you will not be able to complete the exam and your score will be equal to the number of completed correct items divided by the total number of items on the exam.

## Grading

There will be a total of 631 points available for the class. Exams, aplia assignments, and discussion posts will be the basis for your grade. All discussion comments and aplia assignments must be completed on time or they will not be accepted. Exams must be completed on the designated exam days. (Note: I reserve the right to adjust the grading distribution based on the class' scores; however, you will never receive a lower grade than that indicated in the table below.)

Grading:	Points	% of grade <sup>b</sup>
Exams	400	63%
Discussion	40	6%
Aplia Assignments	191 <sup>a</sup>	30%
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>631</b>	

<sup>a</sup> There are 767 questions you must answer; each one is worth ¼ point.

<sup>b</sup> These figures are rounded so they are approximate and sum to more than 100%

Letter	Points
A	100-95%
A-	94-90%
B+	89-87%
B	86-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%

C	76-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%
D	66-63%
D-	62-60%
F	59% & below

Note: To figure out how many points you earned on each exam divide the number of items you answered correctly by 60 and then multiply that number by 100. To get your final grade for the class, total the number of points you have earned (for the exams and discussion questions), divide that total by 631, and multiply by 100 – then find this value in the table above to convert to a letter grade.

Note: I reserve the right to curve the final grades; however, this process will not result in a final grade lower than that indicated in the table.

**Exams:** There will be **4 exams (100 points each exam)**. Each exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions drawn from the text and lectures (including media presentations). You will have an hour to complete each exam. This gives you 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course exams). You will not have time to use your notes or book, so you will need to prepare as you would for an in-class exam. You must take the exam on one of the two days that are designated. You will have from 12:00 am day 1 until 11:55 pm on day 2 to complete the exam (see course calendar for exam dates). You can only take the exam once, not on both days. **Since you have two days to take each exam, NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** The exams will take place in the **Exam Room**. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR EXAM FOR GRADING/REVIEW YOUR GRADE WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED. THIS ENSURES THAT YOUR GRADE IS ENTERED INTO MY GRADE BOOK. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO VIEW YOUR GRADE AFTER THE EXAM PERIOD IS OVER.

**Discussion:** To stimulate engagement of the course material, there are **4 discussion topics included in your lecture notes**. You are responsible for responding by posting at least one thoughtful, academic-style, response for each of the four topics. Your responses to the topics will be graded. Responses can be made any time up to the due date. Thus, you do not have to wait until the last day to post a response. **Each response is worth up to 10 points (for a maximum of 40 points)**. To receive full credit, responses must be insightful, relevant to topic, and be a **minimum** of 4 sentences in length. Responses should also demonstrate knowledge of the lecture and reading materials. Thus, a response of “I agree”, or anything of that nature will receive zero points. A good but average response will receive between 7-8 points and only exceptional responses (ones that are well-

written, demonstrate knowledge of the material and critical thinking) will receive 9-10 points. Post your response under the appropriate topic on the discussion page with your name and topic under the subject heading. Please do not email me your discussion responses. Failure to participate in class discussions by the posted deadlines will result in 0 points for that topic.

**Aplia assignments:** I have set up assignments for each of the chapter in your text book that we are covering this semester. You should read the lecture notes, the text, and then complete the aplia assignment. Essentially, each assignment is a set of questions that assess your understanding of the material presented in the text. The assignments are set up so you can answer questions up to 3 times in order to help you master the material. Your best scores will become your final grade. You must complete all assignments by the due dates listed in the course schedule to receive credit. Completing these assignments should help you to realistically assess what you know and what you need to review before the exams. If, after completing the assignment for a chapter, you find that you are struggling with some concepts, this is a sign you should contact me or your TA before the exam so that you can get additional help. You will note that the assignments are not due until the day before the exam but waiting until the day before the exam to do the assignments does not give you time to ask for help so I highly recommend completing the assignments before the due dates. Note also that you have a non-graded practice aplia assignment due right away. This assignment is designed to familiarize you with using aplia. You must go to [www.cengagebrain.com](http://www.cengagebrain.com) to complete your aplia assignments.

**Extra Credit:** I will e-mail you with opportunities for extra credit if/when they come-up throughout the semester. I may also offer an optional, cumulative final exam that you may take to earn extra credit. Watch for these e-mails.



## **Course Calendar**

**Practice Aplia Assignments – Due Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### **SESSION 1 – CHAPTERS 1-4**

In this session we will cover the historical context to the study of abnormal behavior, theoretical models of psychopathology (including an integrated approach discussed by your textbook authors), assessment, and diagnosis of psychopathology, and the methods used to study psychopathology.

**Aplia Assignments for Session 1 - Due Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Discussion Topic 1 – Due Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Exam 1** – This exam may be taken anytime January 31<sup>st</sup> or February 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday or Friday) from 12:00 a.m. Thursday to 11:59 p.m. Friday.

### **SESSION 2 – CHAPTERS 5, 6, 8**

In this session we will begin the discussion of specific disorders. We will cover the anxiety disorders, somatoform and dissociative disorders, and eating disorders.

**Aplia Assignments for Session 2** - Due Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion Topic 2** – Due Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Exam 2** – This exam may be taken anytime February 28<sup>th</sup> or March 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday or Friday) from 12:00 a.m. Thursday to 11:59 p.m. Friday.

### **SESSION 3 – CHAPTERS 7, 11, 12**

In this session we will continue our discussion of specific disorders. We will cover mood disorders, suicidal behavior, substance and impulse control disorders, and personality disorders.

**Aplia Assignments for Session 3** - Due Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Discussion Topic 3** – Due Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Exam 3** – This exam may be taken anytime April 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday or Friday) from 12:00 a.m. Thursday to 11:59 p.m. Friday.

### **SESSION 4 – CHAPTERS 13,15,16**

In this final session we will cover psychotic disorders, cognitive disorders, and legal and ethical issues in clinical psychology.

**Aplia Assignments for Session 3** - Due Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discussion Topic 4** – Due Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Exam 4** – This exam may be taken anytime April 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday or Tuesday) from 12:00 a.m. Monday to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday.