



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Abnormal Psychology
PSYCO 239 – B1
Winter 2021

Instructor: Jay Brinker
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Email:

*****Please only email personal questions – all other questions go on eClass*****
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This course is asynchronous – there are no set lectures, seminars or meetings

Zoom Office Hours: **Individual – Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:30**
 Group – Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30

Course Description: Nature and treatment of psychological disorders, various models of psychological disorders and research methods used to examine them and evaluate the treatments.

Course Prerequisites: PSYCO 104 or SCI 100, and PSYCO 105. Not open to students with credit in PSYCO 339

It is important to prepare yourself for this course through a review of the prerequisite material. Students who do not have the required prerequisites at the time of taking this course should not expect supplementary professorial tutoring from the instructor.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course students will have an introductory understanding of abnormal behavior and psychopathology. They will understand the role of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. Students will also understand how we assess abnormal behavior. Finally, students will understand the importance of rigorous empirical research as it relates to our understanding of abnormal behavior.

Communication and Questions ***IMPORTANT***

All questions about course content, assessments (e.g. assignments and exams) or course processes MUST be posted on eClass with a clear title reflecting the content. Do NOT email questions of this nature - they will not be responded to. Please look for the answer in the syllabus, on eClass or in the discussion forum first.

Questions posted on eClass will be responded to during regular business hours. I am also happy to answer questions during the Zoom office hours.

****Do not email the Teaching Assistants****

Topic and Reading Schedule:

| Week/ starting | Topics | Chapter/ Reading |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Week 1 Jan 11 | Introduction and Welcome History of Abnormal Psychology | Ch. 1 |
| Week 2 Jan 18 | Research in Abnormal Psychology Models of Abnormality | Ch. 1 Ch. 2 |
| Week 3 Jan 25 | Quiz 1 – Week 1 and 2 Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis Case Conceptualization | Ch. 3 |
| Week 4 Feb 1 | Depression and Bipolar Treatment for Depression and Bipolar | Ch. 4 |
| Week 5 Feb 8 | Quiz 2 – Week 3 and 4 Anxiety and Related Disorders Anxiety II Trauma and Stress | Ch. 7 & 9 Ch. 5 |
| Week 6 Feb 15 | **Reading Week** **No Recorded Lectures Or Office Hours** | |
| Week 7 Feb 22 | Dissociative Disorders Suicide | Ch. 6 Podcast |
| Week 8 Mar 1 | Quiz 3 – Week 5 and 7 Somatic Disorders Eating Disorders | Ch. 8 Ch. 10 |
| Week 9 Mar 8 | Substance Use and Addiction Gender Dysphoria | Ch. 11 eClass |
| Week 10 Mar 15 | Quiz 4 – Week 8 and 9 Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders | Ch. 12 |
| Week 11 Mar 22 | Personality Disorders | Ch. 13 |
| Week 12 Mar 29 | Quiz 5 – Week 10 and 11 Age Related Disorders | Ch. 14 |
| Week 13 April 5 | Ethics, Law and Mental Health Contemporary Issues | eClass Ch. 15 |
| Week 14 Apr 12 | Quiz 6 – Week 12 and 13 Study and review | |

Required Readings:

1. We will be using free, open source textbook and media for this course. Access to the required readings and media will be on eClass.

Required Course Materials

For this course you will need a computer or tablet that is capable of supporting the quiz feature in eClass (we won't be using remote proctoring software), internet access that is consistent enough to complete quizzes and exam in the time allotted and to access lecture recordings and other materials. You will need a microphone to communicate in Zoom office hours. A video camera is recommended but not required. You will need Microsoft Word. Students can download Microsoft Office for free from U of A IST.

(https://ualberta.onthehub.com/WebStore/ProductsByMajorVersionList.aspx?cmi_cs=1&cmi_mnuMain=70eccc40-3868-e311-93f8-b8ca3a5db7a1)

Past or Representative Evaluative Material:

A small sample of example quiz/exam questions will be posted on eClass. Please do not use the content of these questions as a guide for the content of the quizzes or exam. These are also not for practice, only to illustrate the style of questions that are possible. ***Everything in the recorded lectures, assigned media and the required readings is examinable!***

Grade Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned in percentages or letter grades and will be converted to letter grades in accordance with the University of Alberta letter grading system and will reflect your performance in relation to the rest of the class.

| Letter | Approximate % | Pts | Descriptor |
|---------|---------------|-----|--------------|
| A+ | 92 – 100% | 4.0 | Excellent |
| A | 88 – 91.99% | 4.0 | |
| A- | 84 – 87.99% | 3.7 | |
| B+ | 78 – 83.99% | 3.3 | Good |
| B | 74 – 77.99% | 3.0 | |
| B- | 70 – 73.99% | 2.7 | |
| C+ | 65-69.99% | 2.3 | Satisfactory |
| C | 60 – 64.99% | 2.0 | |
| C- | 55 – 59.99% | 1.7 | |
| D+ | 53 – 54.99% | 1.3 | Poor |
| D | 50 – 52.99% | 1.0 | Minimal Pass |
| F or F4 | 0 – 49.99% | 0 | Failure |

****NOTE**** Due to the alternate format of the course this semester, this grading system is an approximation. Grades may be adjusted at the end of semester to better reflect the descriptors and to maximize equivalence with previous sessions of this course

Components of Final Course Grade

| Assessment | Weighting | Due Date |
|--|-----------|--|
| 5 Reflective Journal Entries (2% each) | 10% total | Monday Jan 25 Monday Feb 15 Monday Mar 8 Monday Mar 29 Monday April 12 |
| 4 Quizzes (12.5% each) Best 4 of 6 The two (2) lowest marks will be dropped to accommodate for unexpected technical difficulties, illness, personal issues etc. Each quiz will cover the content of the 2 weeks previous. | 50% total | Tuesday Jan 26 Tuesday Feb 9 Tuesday Mar 2 Tuesday Mar 16 Tuesday Mar 30 Tuesday April 13 |
| Written Assignment | 10% | Monday Feb 22 |
| Final Exam - Cumulative | 30% | ** |

**The final exam will be scheduled by the university and posted on BearTracks.
There is no possibility of a reexamination in this course.

Reflective Journal Entries

Detailed instructions can be found on eClass

Students will complete 5 simple reflective journal entries. These have no right or wrong answers and are simply designed to get students thinking about different issues. If you answer the questions clearly, stay within the word limit, and submit the assignment on time, you will receive full marks.

These have due dates but are available to be completed any time before that. I encourage you to complete these early because it is not possible to submit them late.

No extensions – No exceptions

Written Assignment

More detailed instructions can be found on eClass.

Students will write one short assignment based on information from the lectures and readings.

Policy on Late Written Assignment:

These short assignments are based on the lecture and text book content. I strongly encourage you to complete the assignment while you are going through the related content and submit it early to avoid the late penalty.

Assignments submitted late, for **any** reason, will incur 3% off the assignment grade per each calendar day (or part thereof) up to a maximum of one week at which point you will receive a grade of 0. For example, if you submit the assignment between 11:56pm on the due date and 11:55pm on the next calendar day, you would lose 3% of your grade. All assignments will be submitted via eClass and technical difficulties with this process will NOT be accepted as exemption from the late penalty. Submit your assignments early to avoid these problems.

Quizzes

There will be six (6) online quizzes in eClass covering the course content from the 2 weeks before. The content of each quiz will be noted on eClass. The quizzes are open from 9:00am – 11:55pm **on the assigned day**, but **once you begin the quiz you will only have 30 minutes complete it**. Each quiz will consist of 15-20 multiple choice or true/false questions.

It is expected that you will complete these quizzes on your own, without help from other people and to do so would academic misconduct. Any evidence of this will be submitted to the faculty.

There are no extensions on the quizzes. The lowest two grades will be dropped to accommodate for illness, personal difficulties or unexpected technical difficulties. I encourage you to attempt all of the quizzes, even if you feel you will not perform at your best. Later, unexpected difficulties may arise and you will not be given extensions.

****Please note** – these quiz questions are very conceptual and applied. You will not have time to look up the information and you will not be able to quickly Google the answers so please be sure to study as if you won't have your notes and materials available during the quiz.

****Quiz Reviews** IMPORTANT**

While we are delivering our courses remotely you will NOT have the opportunity to review your quizzes. I will not release quiz questions. This is a proprietary issue. Also, this class is too large to review every quiz with each student during office hours.

I will provide detailed feedback about each question and where possible I will provide suggestions about studying and writing future quizzes.

If we were conducting the course in person there would be exam review sessions where you could come in and review the test with the TA but not take the test with you – that is not possible in a remote delivery course.

If you believe this will have too great an impact on your performance, I understand if you decide to wait to take this course when it can be offered in person.

Final Exam:

- ✓ The exam will be an online, open-book final exam
- ✓ The exam will cover anything in the lectures, required readings and other assigned materials in eClass.
- ✓ The final exam is cumulative and will cover all topics from the course
- ✓ There will be 50 multiple choice questions and you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.
- ✓ Please note – Beartracks may list the final exam as 2 hours long – that is incorrect.
- ✓ If you require accommodations approved through Accessibility Resources, be sure to let me know at the start of semester so these can be arranged.

If you have approved accommodation for quizzes or exams please inform me within the first week of class so that these can be arranged.

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see <https://www.ualberta.ca/services/health-centre/exam-deferrals.html>

****The deferred final exam will be held on Wednesday May 12 from 10 – 11:30am MDT****

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the Academic Integrity website. <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-integrity/index.html> If you have any questions, ask your instructor. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process <https://www.ualberta.ca/provost/dean-of-students/student-conduct-and-accountability/discipline-process.html>

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

COVID-19 Updates: Updates pertaining to university-related activities can be found on the [COVID-19 Information website](https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/index.html). <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/index.html>

Student Services and Resources: General information about various services, including academic, financial, health, safety, and career development, can be found on the website for [Current Students](https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students). <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the Accessibility Resources webpage.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/accessibility-resources/index.html>

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

The Academic Success Centre offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-success-centre/index.html>

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The Centre for Writers offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/centre-for-writers/index.html>

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the Health and Wellness Support webpage.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/wellness/index.html>

First Peoples' House: Provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/first-peoples-house/index.html>

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The Office of the Student Ombuds offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/ombuds/index.html>

Learning and working environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. This includes virtual environments and platforms.

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.

https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Evaluation_Procedures_and_Grading_System

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Disclaimer: Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination dates reported in this syllabus.