

**Sam Houston State University**  
**Psychology 331 - Abnormal Psychology**  
**Spring 2008**

Instructor: Daniel J. Fox, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By Arrangement

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**Course Description:**

This course will cover the identification, classification, etiology, measurement, and treatment of specific mental health disorders. We will also examine the influence of socio-cultural factors such as family, gender, and race on psychopathology. We will do this through the examination of textbook material and research articles. The goals of this course will be to supply you with the knowledge of the etiology of various disorders, associated risk factors with each disorder, how these disorders present in “real world” situations, i.e., dual diagnosis and disorder classification and diagnosis, and help you develop the ability to think clearly and critically about abnormal psychology.

**Required Texts:**

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., text-revision*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association.

Hersen, M., & Turner, S.M. (2007). *Adult Psychopathology and Diagnosis* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Wiley.

**Recommended Texts:**

Benjamin, L.S. (1996). *Interpersonal Diagnosis and Treatment of Personality Disorders* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Guilford Press.

**Course Format:**

Class will consist of lecture and discussion, either in groups or as a class. Students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in class through discussion and analysis of each topic. You are encouraged to use your ability to view each diagnosis through a concrete and abstract view. Your opinion counts, but must be supported by evidence to back up your beliefs. We will analyze and review each disorder(s). At the conclusion of each class we will have the daily quiz on the topic of the day; quiz questions will relate to previous topics discussed in class. It is vital that you have an understanding of the overlap of various disorders. No disorder is mutually exclusive. Each disorder must be viewed from various vantage points and theories.

**YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BRING YOUR TEXTBOOK TO CLASS. IT IS FOR STUDY OUTSIDE OF CLASS.**

**Daily Quizzes:**

At the beginning of each class, you will be given a quiz. Each quiz will contain 10 questions related to the previous disorder(s) or disorder(s) discussed. Format will consist of multiple choice questions. You will need a green Scantron sheet for each quiz. You can earn a maximum of 10 points per quiz. **There will be no make-ups for quizzes.**

**Exams:**

There will be three exams and a final. The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and a vignette. A green Scantron is required for the multiple choice section of the exams. You are permitted to use the DMS-IV-TR for the vignette. You are to identify symptoms that match criteria and diagnose the patient in the vignette. The final exam will be a video final. You are to diagnose the identified character using the multiaxial system of the DSM-IV-TR. You can use your DSM-IV-TR in class for this exam.

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend class regularly as exam material comes from class lectures and discussion, as well as textbook material.

**Make-Up Exams:**

Make-up exams will **not** be given unless you have a legitimate and valid excuse (e.g., family emergency, illness, and hospitalization). Please let me know in advance if you will miss an exam. If you fail to let me know in advance that you will be missing an exam (even if you have a valid excuse), you will not be allowed to make up that exam.

**ALL APPROVED MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE DAY OF YOUR FINAL EXAM.**

**Policy on Unethical Conduct:**

Unethical conduct in the form of cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone caught engaging in unethical conduct will automatically receive an F in the course.

**Special Accommodations:**

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may need special accommodations should speak with me as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. Please feel free to contact me anytime. If there is anything I can help you with, I will be more than happy to do so.

**Grading Criteria:**

Exam 1 + Vingette	150
Exam 2 + Vingette	150
Exam 3 + Vingette	150
Final Exam	100
Daily Quizzes	100
Class Participation	<u>50</u>
	700

**Grading Scale:**

A = 700 - 630

B = 629 - 560

C = 559 - 490

D = 489 - 420

F = 419 or below

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ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
PSY331  
SPRING 2008**

Session 1	1/28	Mental Disorders as Discrete Clinical Conditions & Dual Diagnosis Chapters 1 & 2 DSM-IV-TR, pp. xxiii-xxxvii, 1-10, 27-37
Session 2	2/04	Impact of Race and Ethnicity on Psychopathology Chapter 4 Delirium, Dementia, and Amnesic and Other Cognitive Disorders Chapter 5
Session 3	2/11	Substance Related Disorders Chapters 6 & 7 Quiz 1
Session 4	2/18	Schizophrenia Chapter 8 Quiz 2
Session 5	2/25	<b>**Exam 1**</b> Take Home Quiz 8
Session 6	3/03	No Class
Session 7	3/10	Spring Break – No Class
Session 8	3/17	Depressive Disorders Chapter 9 Quiz 3
Session 9	3/24	Bipolar Disorders Chapters 10 Quiz 4
Session 10	3/31	<b>**Exam 2**</b>

Session 11	4/07	Anxiety Disorders Chapter 11 Quiz 5
Session 12	4/14	Eating Disorders Chapter 15 & Suicide Quiz 6
Session 13	4/21	Personality Disorders Quizzes 7 & 9
Session 14	4/28	<b>**Exam 3**</b>
Session 15	5/05	Last day of class <b>**Final exam**</b> Quiz 10

**I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS AS NEEDED  
THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER**