

**PSY 331.03**  
**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2008

T-Th 2-3:20

Instructor: Paul Neunuebel, Ph.D

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Location of Class: LDB 216

Office Hours: 10-11 T-Th

Other times by appointment

Required Texts: Comer, R.J. (2007). Abnormal Psychology (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

Recommended: Accompanying study guide.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course includes an introduction to behavior disorders. Psychological, social, and biological factors in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychopathology are studied. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours of Psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To acquire an understanding of the process of diagnosis (the DSM-IV-TR system) as well as an appreciation of some of the technical and clinical problems associated with diagnosis.
2. To review the mainstream perspectives which might account for the various disorders which are examined.
3. To acquire a basic understanding of both the nature and the etiology of various DSM-IV-TR psychological disorders.
4. To acquire an understanding of broad treatment approaches to the disorders discussed above.

FORMAT:

The content of this course is provided through a series of classroom lectures, videotapes, and readings.

## GRADES:

Final grades will be determined by performance on five equally weighted tests. Grades for each test will be based upon the high grade in the class for that test. The high grade (40 out of 50 will be the lowest I will use) will determine the rest of the distribution as follows:

- A: 90-100% of the highest grade.
- B: 80-89% of the highest grade.
- C: 70-79% of the highest grade.
- D: 60-69% of the highest grade.
- F: Less than 60% of the highest grade.

The final course grade will be based on a similar distribution, but using the sum of the high test grades as the standard.

**Missed Exams.** A missed exam will be made up at the last class period before finals. No student will be allowed to make up more than **one** exam. If you take all exams at the scheduled times, I will add 4 points to your lowest test grade (this is the equivalent of one letter grade), e.g. a low “C” becomes a low “B”, etc.). **All students must take the final as scheduled.** Also, note that there will be no opportunities for “extra credit.”

Students will need #2 pencils and “Scan-Tron” answer sheets (#882-ES) for each exam.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be kept and is expected since tests will include both text and lectures. Also, at the end of the semester, borderline cases will be decided in your favor only if you have missed no more than **two** classes. My definition of being absent is missing the roll sheet when it comes around. **If for some reason you need to leave class early, please let me know before class. Otherwise, please do not leave class early.** To leave early can be very distracting to others in the class.

CLASS OUTLINE:

<u>TEST</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
I.-----	Normal vs. Abnormal History Assessment and Diagnosis DSM-IV-TR Problems Associated with Diagnosis	Sept. 18-----	1 & 4
II.-----	Models of Psychopathology Anxiety Disorders Generalized Anxiety Dis. Phobic Disorder Panic Disorder Obsessive-Compulsive Dis.	Oct. 14-----	3 & 5
III.-----	Anxiety Disorders (continued) Stress Disorders Psychological Disorders Affecting Physical Condition Somatoform Disorders Somatization Disorder Hypochondriasis Conversion Disorder Body Dysmorphic Disorder Pain Disorder Dissociative Disorders Dissociative Amnesia Dissociative Fugue Dissociative Identity Dis. Depersonalization Disorder Eating Disorders Anorexia Nervosa Bulimia Nervosa Treatment	Nov. 4-----	6, 7 & 11
IV.-----	Mood Disorders	Nov. 25-----	8, 9 & 16

Major Depression  
 Dysthymic Disorder  
 Bipolar I  
 Bipolar II  
 Cyclothymic Disorder  
 Personality Disorders

V.-----Final-----14, 15 & 17

Schizophrenia  
 Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

**Notice to persons with disabilities:** *Sam Houston State University adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.*

**Student absences on religious holy days policy:** *The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this policy may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.*

*The university provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.*

**Visitors in the Classroom:** *Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.*

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty:** *All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. The penalty for academic dishonesty in this course is an “F” .*