



Abnormal Psychology

Psychology 309-Cedar Crest College- Course Syllabus

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Department of Psychology
Spring 2010



Cedar Crest College

Syllabus

Title: Abnormal Psychology (PSY-309)
(3 Credits)

Class Meeting Times: Mondays 6:30-9 PM

Classroom: Curtis 351

Faculty: Dr. Micah R. Sadigh

Office: Curtis 119

Office Hours: Mondays (10-11:00 AM & 5:30-6:30 PM); Tuesdays (1-2PM);
Wednesdays (10-11 AM, 1-3 PM); Thursdays (4-5 PM); or by appointment (610-
606-4666, Ext. 3715)

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Course Description: This course provides a detailed analysis of various mental disorders. Specifically, we shall discuss the disorders presented in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR) in terms of their presenting symptoms, etiology, and assessment, particularly from theoretical, empirical, and clinical perspectives. We shall also examine psychotherapeutic and psychopharmacological interventions for various disorders, the course of treatment, and the effectiveness and success of these interventions in ameliorating symptoms and improving adjustment.

Course Objectives:

- Understand and critically think about the various aspects of behavior
- Understand behaviors in the context of that individual, setting and culture
- Be able to identify developmental and cultural norms as they relate to behavior
- Understand and apply the diagnostic categories of the DSM-IV-TR

Course Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the DSM-IV-TR diagnoses.
- Students will show their identification, reasoning, and understanding of various mental disorders.
- Students will utilize critical thinking in order to apply the diagnostic criteria of the DSM-IV-TR.
- Students will appreciate the cultural and ethical issues related to mental health.

Teaching Format: The course will consist of lecture, discussion, and case study presentations. Students should read the assigned material before coming to class, so that they can be active participants during the class period.

Student Evaluation: Four non-cumulative exams will be administered that will include multiple-choice questions designed to measure students' knowledge, understanding, and application of textbook, lecture, and handout material. Each test is worth 100 points. Make-up exams will be given ONLY with documentation of an excused absence (i.e., sickness, college-sponsored event, legal situation)—there will be NO EXCEPTIONS. Advanced notice should be given whenever feasible. Documentation must be presented and the make-up exam scheduled as soon as possible.

Grades: Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following criteria:
Four tests - (each test counts for 25% of your final grade)

A	93.0-100%	C	73.0-76.6%
A-	90.0-92.9%	C-	70.0-72.9%
B+	86.7-89.9%	D+	67.0-69.9%
B	83.4-86.6%	D	65-66.9%
B-	80.0-83.3%	F	below 65%
C+	76.7-79.9%		

- Deadlines are firm. Extensions will be granted only in cases of extenuating circumstances. All work must be completed by the end of the course or the student will receive an "F" for the course.
- I do not supply lecture notes. If you have to miss class, arrange for someone to take notes for you. I highly recommend attendance which will aid in comprehending the materials presented in the lectures and textbook.
- Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.
- Students are responsible for all reading assignments and material covered in class. Tests will cover textbook as well as lecture material.
- Final grades are final. If you are a percent or two short of the next letter grade, you are a percent or two short. I will not give away free marks at the end of the term unless I give the same amount to everyone.

Classroom Protocol: All Cedar Crest College students are expected to be familiar with and fully supportive of the college's policy regarding the honor code and academic integrity. See the Student Guide for more information regarding the enforcement of these policies. Appropriate classroom behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

Honor Code: Students are expected to abide by the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. The Honor Code policy can be found in the Customs Book. Any violation will be dealt with according to college procedures.

Plagiarism: If plagiarism is suspected, I am bound to follow academic regulations. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material. The use of material without acknowledgement is an offense.

Cheating: Bear in mind, allowing another to copy one's work is an academic offense just as is copying from someone. Furthermore, submitting the same paper for two courses without arrangement is also an academic offense.

TEXTBOOK:

1. Barlow, D. & Durand, V. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach. Thomson Wadsworth Publishers: Belmont, CA.

Barlow, Durand Companion Site:

http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bI&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780495095569&disciplinenum=24

Psychology Department Attendance Policy

The Psychology Department is committed to the principle that regular and punctual class attendance is essential to the students' optimum learning and successful academic achievement. Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and students are responsible for all work, tests and written assignments. Therefore, students are expected to be present for all class sessions. The Psychology Department's attendance policy recognizes that there will be times when attendance at class is not possible. You may think of the policy as being similar to the type used in the corporate world where each employee is given a certain number of "personal/sick days." Based on the number of regularly scheduled class meetings, you will be allowed a certain number of absences (see below) with no consequences, no questions asked. In other words, there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. You are of course responsible for anything covered during those missed classes, and for submitting assignments on time, regardless of whether or not you attend. Beyond the allowable number of absences, there are consequences that will adversely impact your grade, much as missing too many days of work can adversely impact your employment status. Above all else, you should carefully consider each decision to not attend class, as once your allotted absences have been used, they are gone. *It is important that students arrive for class on time. Late arrivals are very distracting, not only to the instructor, but also to fellow students. Repeated late arrivals are not acceptable and will be addressed on an individual basis.* It is each student's responsibility to understand this policy and to keep track of absences throughout the semester.

Application to this Class: Formal attendance will be taken during all class sessions. This class meets once per week (14 class meetings). As such, **you may miss 2 classes without penalty**. If you miss **3 classes**, your final grade (cumulative percentage of points) will be lowered by 5%. That means that if you have earned 84% of the available points in the class, which is a B grade, you would be lowered to 79%, which is a C+. Likewise, if you have earned 77% of the points available, the penalty would take you down to 72%, which is a C-. As a reminder, a C grade (73%) is required in all Psychology courses. If you miss **4 classes**, you will receive a failing grade for the course. If you miss four classes, you have missed approximately 25% of the class meetings.

UNNECESSARY CONVERSATIONS: Unnecessary conversations will be distracting to your fellow students as well as your professor. Those who engage in such conversations will be dismissed from class.

Topics, Dates, and Assigned Chapters

Date	Topic	Reading
1/25	Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Chapter 1
2/1	Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Chapter 2
2/8	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	Chapter 3
2/15	Research Methods	Chapter 4
2/22	EXAM #1	Chapters 1-4
3/1	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5
3/8	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	
3/15	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6
3/22	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7
3/29	EXAM #2	Chapters 5-7
4/6	Eating Disorders & Sleep Disorders (NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ON TUESDAY NIGHT)	Chapter 8
4/12	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
4/19	Personality Disorders Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders (Part 1)	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
4/26	EXAM #3 Lecture: Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders (Part 2)	Chapters 8 & 12
5/3	Developmental and Cognitive Disorders	Chapters 14 and 15
5/10	EXAM #4	Chapters 13, 14, 15