

Psychology 316.001
Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2012

Classroom: Social Sciences Building – Room 141
Time: T-Th 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM
Instructor: Charles W. Keenan, Ph.D.
Email: Chuck.Keenan@tamuc.edu
Office Hours: Wed. afternoon and by appointment
Office: Binnion Hall – Room 101(903-886-5660)
Text: Hansell, J. & Damour, L. (2008) Abnormal Psychology (Second Edition)

Course Objectives: This course will provide an overview of the field of Abnormal and Clinical Psychology. The essential objectives of the course will be: to develop a factual and conceptual understanding of the major types and classes of disorders (including their genesis, course, and treatment modalities); and to develop a familiarity with the major clinical theories and how they are applied. Individual case studies and research will be used to illuminate the often ambiguous and complex picture presented to practicing clinicians. The DSM IV-TR system of diagnosis will be covered, as well as alternative methods of approaching an understanding of mental illness and its impact upon society.

Attendance, Special Needs and Student Conduct

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Cell phones and other electronic devices will be turned off during class, please.

Department policy provides for a maximum of three (3) unexcused absences. Those students with excessive absences may be dropped from the class roll. Students are expected to be in class on time. Socially appropriate, respectful behavior is expected toward the instructor, other students and the learning environment. See Student's Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.

Class Format:

Lecture and class discussion will be the principle format. Student participation is encouraged.

Tests: There will be four compulsory tests. The test material will be drawn from the text and class lectures. Test structure will be multiple choice and true/false. Each test score will comprise 25% of the total course grade. There will not be any make-up tests scheduled. Those individuals with an approved test absence (approved university activity etc.) will be required to complete the make-up test no later than one week after the regularly scheduled test.

The final exam will not be cumulative.

Semester Schedule

Assignments

Aug 28 – Sept 13

Chapters 1 – 3

Sept 18

First Test

Sept 20 – Oct 9

Chapters 4 – 7

Oct 11

Second Test

Oct 16 – Nov 13

Chapters 8 – 11

Nov 15

Third Test

Nov 20 – Dec 6

Chapters 12 - 14

Final Exam

Dec 11, 1:15 – 3:15

Grading

Each test will account for approximately 30 – 40 points. The course grade will be based upon the cumulative points total for four tests and any extra credit work.

90 – 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

59 = F

Sources of Extra Credit

There will be 3 – 4 “Think Papers” or “Thinking and Feeling Papers” if you prefer. Each paper will be worth a maximum of 10 points. The papers will be voluntary.

There will NOT be a compulsory research paper assigned for this class.

Other sources of extra credit are participation in departmental sponsored research with one of the many research and scholarly oriented faculty in the department (maximum of 5 points: ½ hour of completed research = 1 point).

Have a great semester!