PSY 316: Abnormal Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2013

Instructor: Shannon D. Akin, M.S., LSSP
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Kring, A. M., Davison, G.C., Neale, J.M., & Johnson, S.L. (2013). *Abnormal Psychology DSM-5 Update*, 12th Edition, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Optional: DSM- V

Course Description: This course is designed as an introductory-level course in abnormal psychology. As such, we will investigate various psychological disorders and provide an introduction to the current and historical theoretical paradigms that have influenced our perception as to what constitutes "abnormal behavior". These paradigms include cognitive, biological *(neuroscience)*, psychoanalytical, learning, and sociocultural influences, and they also provide the basis for our understanding of human behavior as well as help guide our therapies and research efforts. We will also spend some time discussing the public's attitudes toward individuals with psychological disorders, and we will also explore the legal, ethical, social, philosophical and professional issues that are related to the identification, diagnosis, treatment, effect *(individual, family, and community)* and prevention of these psychological disturbances.

Student Learning Outcome: Upon completion of this course, the students will have a better understanding of the psychological disorders that are identified in the DSM-V.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. I cover a tremendous amount of information each class meeting, therefore, attendance is **critical** to your performance in this course. Please be in class, on time to class, and remain for the entire class. If you are absent for an excused reason (see student handbook or instructor for detailed explanation of excused absences) you may turn in assignments via email on that date.

Assignments and projects that are missed **may not be made up**. Pop quizzes and exams must be taken on the date given. If a student misses an exam, a comprehensive exam may be taken to "make up" that grade. Upon receiving the 5th unexcused absence, a student will be asked to drop the course**, or will receive a failing grade.** Also, if you are absent from class for any reason, please make arrangements with a classmate to get the notes from that class, and complete the assigned readings for that date. ***PLEASE remember that communication with the instructor is the key to taking care of attendance issues.*** Texas A&M-Commerce procedures allows for instructors to determine attendance policies. I maintain a record of class absences and require copies of absence excuses. Faculty members are requested to consider the following reasons for absence as excusable: participation in university activities; verified illness, death in a student's immediate family, obligation of student at legal proceedings, and others determined by the individual faculty to be excusable. Appeals can be made through normal administrative channels.

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
Learning is an active process thus participation in course activities and discussions are integral. I will lecture on the course textbook material, but I strongly encourage you to play an active participant role in these discussions. Individual and/or group projects will be assigned.

Grading
All of the exams might have multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Our chapters schedule us not set in stone and subject to adaptations as the semester progresses. The speed at which chapters are covered will be determined as feedback is evaluated for comprehension of the nuances of each diagnosis/category. **A word of warning**: If you do not **thoroughly study** the chapter after we have discussed it, you will experience significant difficulty in successfully navigating the evaluations and you will certainly not be prepared for the comprehensive final exam. The questions for all exams, including the final, can cover any of the material in the textbook, lectures, movies, and learning activities, regardless of whether the material was specifically discussed in class or not.

Make-up exams will not be given without sufficient cause *(medical, legal, or familial).*

The final exam is comprehensive, which means that it will test you over every chapter in the textbook that we have discussed in lecture

Grades will be determined by the following:
All exams and the project with a maximum possible 400 points
Daily quizzes and participation with a maximum possible 100 points

Course Letter Grade: Your course letter grade will be determined by your percent earned of the total points available. Your grade is independent of the other students in the course, and your course letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Grade	**Performance Requirements**

Percent of Possible

> 88.5%	A	Well exceeds all course requirements with superior academic distinction in all areas
78.5 - 88.4%	B	Meets course requirements with good performance in most areas
68.5 - 78.4%	C	Meets course requirements with average performance in most areas
59.5 - 68.4%	D	Meets course requirements, but with inadequate performance in some or most areas
< 59.4%	F	Does not meet the course standards and requirements

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

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@tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course lecture will be the primary mode of instruction. Chapters will be covered in the order of the text. The following is a general guide:

Lecture 1	Introduction
Lecture 2	Chapter 1 Historical Overview of Mental Illness
Lecture 3	Chapter 2 Current Paradigms in Psychology
Lecture 4	Chapter 3 Diagnosis and Assessment
Lecture 5	Chapter 4 Research Methodologies
Lecture 6	Flex Day
	Review
	Exam
Lecture 7	Chapter 5 Mood Disorders
Lecture 8	Chapter 6 Anxiety Disorders

Lecture 9	Chapter 7 Obsessive-Compulsive Related Disorders
Lecture 10	Chapter 7 Trauma-Related Disorders
Lecture 11	Chapter 8 Dissociative Disorders
Lecture 12	Chapter 9 Schizophrenia
Lecture 13	Flex Day Review Exam
Lecture 14	Chapter 10 Substance Use Disorders
Lecture 15	Chapter 11 Eating Disorders
Lecture 16	Chapter 12 Sexual Disorders
Lecture 17	Chapter 13 Disorders of Childhood
Lecture 18	Chapter 13 Disorders of Childhood
Lecture 19	Chapter 14 Late-Life & Neurocognitive Disorders
Lecture 20	Chapter 15 Personality Disorders
Lecture 21	Chapter 15 Personality Disorders
Lecture 22	Chapter 16 Legal and Ethical Issues
Lecture 23	Flex Day Review Exam
Lecture 24	Group Presentations
Lecture 25	Group Presentations

FINALS WEEK Comprehensive Final

Final Note:
Student Conduct

"All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct