

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Department of Psychology and Philosophy

Psychology 331.02: Abnormal Psychology (Summer II 2008)

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 12:00-1:50

Class meetings in Academic Building-IV, Room 301

**Instructor:** Audrey K. Miller, Ph.D.

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**Office:** AB-IV 312

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 10-12 and by appointment (Note: Due to potentially unforeseeable faculty responsibilities, please confirm in advance my availability for *any* office meeting.)

**Course Description:** This course involves an introduction to the description, development, and treatment of psychological disorders. A textbook that adopts a paradigmatic approach to understanding psychopathology, integrates important social issues into that understanding, and discusses special contemporary issues in the field has been selected to guide course content.

**Specific Course Objectives:**

- 1) Learn the history and contemporary perspectives through which we have understood abnormal behavior
- 2) Learn the basic methods by which clinicians evaluate, and researchers advance our knowledge of, abnormal behavior
- 3) Learn the current state of knowledge about the description and development of various specific psychological disorders
- 4) Learn the nature of basic intervention methods used to treat psychological disorders
- 5) Learn legal and ethical issues related to the field of psychopathology

**Required Textbook:** Kring, A. M., Davison, G. C., Neale, J. M., & Johnson, S. L. (2007). *Abnormal psychology* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

**Recommended Study Guide:** Kring, A. M., Davison, G., C., Neale, J. M., & Johnson, S. L. (2007). *Student study guide to accompany Abnormal Psychology* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken NJ: Wiley. Study guide prepared by Douglas Hindman.

**Instructor's Expectations:**

- 1) *Prior to Class:* Read the assigned textbook chapter, so you are an informed class participant and can ask questions about material in class.
- 2) *About Class:* Be awake, attentive, interactive, and respectful of others (lest you be asked to leave). Be informed that this instructor takes the University's attendance policy seriously (i.e., grade penalty after 3 hours missed). Your attendance will be documented by your signature on daily attendance sheets, distributed at random times. You will not be allowed to sign attendance sheets before or after their circulation. In this course, you are allowed to miss **2 DAYS WITHOUT GRADE PENALTY**. However, be very aware, **YOUR GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DAY YOU ARE ABSENT**. Also, be aware that if additional absences are officially excused by the Dean's office, I may observe them. However, in the interest of consistency and fairness, **NO** excuses submitted directly to me will be observed. You are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate if you are absent for any reason.
- 3) *About Exams and Assignments for Credit.* You will receive a zero (0) if you are absent for an exam or if you fail to submit an assignment according to schedule. You will need to provide your own #2 pencils and "Scan-Tron" answer forms for each examination.

**Instructor's Expectations, continued:**

- 4) *Academic Dishonesty* in any form – e.g., forging names on attendance sheets, cheating on exams, plagiarism, collusion (see University policy and/or ask me if definitions are needed) – will result in a zero (0) in the course and will likely result in formal disciplinary actions. Any writing will be subjected to plagiarism detection software, namely Turnitin.com.
- 5) *Extra Credit*. A maximum of 5 points may be earned during the course by participation in research studies and mock therapy as posted on the department's PeRP system (it is your responsibility to ensure with individual researchers the accuracy of this report). If you would prefer not to participate in research or mock therapy, you may alternately submit a 5-page (double spaced) research review on the *current state of a treatment literature* for a particular disorder of your choosing. Your review should contain at least 5 references obtained from PsychInfo (documented your 6<sup>th</sup> report page, "References") and may include primary research reports, reviews of the treatment literature, or meta-analyses of the treatment literature. You should discuss each reference and then integrate the findings. The report will be worth up to 5 extra credit points, the bar for superior quality.

**Tentative Course/Examination Schedule**  
*(subject to change based on class progress)*

**Part I. Introduction and Fundamental Issues**

- Tuesday 7.8.08 Syllabus
- Wednesday 7.9.08 Chapter 1: Introduction and Historical Overview
- Thursday 7.10.08 Chapter 2: Current Paradigms in Psychopathology
- Friday 7.11.08 Chapter 3: Disorders and Assessment
- Monday 7.14.08 Chapter 4: Research Methods in the Study of Psychopathology
- Tuesday 7.15.08 **Exam 1: Chapters 1-4**

**Part II. Psychological Disorders**

- Wednesday 7.16.08 Chapter 5: Anxiety Disorders
- Thursday 7.17.08 Chapter 6: Somatoform Disorders and Dissociative Disorders
- Friday 7.18.08 Chapter 7: Stress and Health
- Monday 7.21.08 Chapter 8: Mood Disorders
- Tuesday 7.22.08 Chapter 9: Eating Disorders
- Wednesday 7.23.08 **Exam 2: Chapters 5-9**
- Thursday 7.24.08 Chapter 10: Substance-Related Disorders
- Friday 7.25.08 Chapter 11: Schizophrenia
- Monday 7.28.08 Chapter 12: Personality Disorders
- Tuesday 7.29.08 Chapter 13: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
- Wednesday 7.30.08 **Exam 3: Chapters 10-13**

**Part III. Life-Span and Developmental Disorders**

- Thursday 7.31.08 Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood
- Friday 8.1.08 Chapter 15: Late Life and Psychological Disorders

**Part IV. Intervention and Legal and Ethical Issues**

- Monday 8.4.08 Chapter 16: Psychological Treatment
- Tuesday 8.5.08 Chapter 17: Legal and Ethical Issues
- Wednesday 8.7.08 Wrap-up
- Thursday 8.7.08 **Exam 4: Chapters 14-17**

## Grades

Course grades will be computed by averaging the four examination grades, each worth 25%. Deductions for excessive absences and additions for extra credit earned will be made following computation of the course grade. Note that extra credit must appear on PeRP, and extra-credit research reports must be turned in, by the beginning of the class period on Tuesday August 5, 2008. The final course grade rubric is as follows:

- A = 89.5-100%
- B = 79.5-89.49%
- C = 60.5-79.49%
- D = 59.5-69.49%
- F = Less than 59.59%

## Final Notes on University Policies

*Per University policy, students with a disability* that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

*Per Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code*, an institution of higher education excuses 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 subsection 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. *Per University policy 861001*, a student for whom this section is relevant should present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe within which the missed assignments/examinations are to be completed.