PSY240H5S - Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Wednesday 3:00pm –6:00pm
Room Location: DV 2072

Contact Information

Taryn Grieder
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Office hours:
Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment
Room DH4025

Teaching Assistants:
Diane Seguin
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Perminder Aulakh
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Joanna Peplak
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Course Description

This course is intended to provide you with a strong introduction to the field of abnormal psychology. We will examine contemporary issues in theory and research on abnormal behaviour and its treatment. Topics include the definition of abnormal behaviour, causes and treatment of disorders, diagnosis and assessment, incidence and prevalence, biological and psychological interventions, prevention, as well as legal and ethical issues.

Exclusion: PSY240H1/PSYB32H3

Reading Material


Supplemental Readings:
Material from the text will be complimented with supplementary readings, which are meant to explore issues that are not fully covered in the text. These readings will be accessible on Blackboard.

Course Format

Students are expected to read the assigned chapters in preparation for each class. Class time will be devoted to elaborating and extending the text. Although the lectures and the text will provide a basic structure, course material will be addressed in different ways, including case studies, group discussions, and videos.

Tests: The tests will focus on material covered in lecture, so your lecture notes should be used to guide your studying. However, students are responsible for the assigned readings, as the textbook may contain more detail about something discussed in lecture that would be needed to achieve full marks on an exam question.

Tests will have a combination of multiple choice questions (~70% of the marks) and short answer questions (~30% of the marks). Short answer questions will involve some definitions and descriptions of psychological models, and also some analysis of case studies in which you will be asked to analyze fictitious patients, diagnose their most likely disorders, and
suggest a first course of treatment.
The midterms will be held in class and are non-cumulative. The final exam is cumulative, with more focus on material since midterm 2.

**Grades:** Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Midterm test 1 will be graded prior to the final drop date for this course (March 8th).

**Participation:** We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using smartphones, tablets, or laptops, or through text messaging. If you have none of these methods of participation, or need other accommodations, please see the instructor.

You can visit support.tophat.com for the Student Academy or tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide for the Student Quick Start Guide, which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your email account. If you don’t receive this email, you can register by visiting our unique course website: tophat.com/e/434017

Top Hat requires a subscription, paid for by the student. There are two options to choose from:
$20 for 4 months of unlimited access, or $38 for 5 years unlimited access
More details will be provided in lecture.

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### Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly participation using Top Hat</th>
<th>10 lectures (2% each lecture)</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test 1</td>
<td>February 4(^{th})</td>
<td>Chapters 1-7, 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test 2</td>
<td>March 11(^{th})</td>
<td>Chapters 8-11, 13, 16</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Date TBA (April 13-27)</td>
<td>All assigned chapters</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via [http://portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca)

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Blackboard; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: [https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/](https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/)

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site: [http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm](http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm)

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### IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES  **PLEASE READ**

**Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: [https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest](https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest).
Students are to submit original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) to the Psychology Academic Counselor or drop it in the drop box located outside the Psychology office, Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students have up-to one week from the date of the missed test to submit request. Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness.

Medical certificates or physician's notes must be completed by the Physician and MUST include the statement "This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one the day of the missed term test. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable. For further information on this procedure please see: http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology/undergraduate-studies/missed-tests-late-submissions

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by the UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre.

IMPORTANT: The Department of Psychology verifies the authenticity of medical certificates by contacting medical offices. Students are NOT to make any changes or alteration to completed medical certificates. Students who submit forged or altered documentation are subject to severe academic penalties.

If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered within 2 weeks of the original test date. Please contact Jodie Stewart (jodie.stewart@utoronto.ca) for further information pertaining to the make-up details.

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process
Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request directly to the Instructor for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest.

You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out. For extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions.

Penalties for Lateness
A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.
**Academic Guidelines**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: [http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/](http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/).

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

**AccessAbility Services**

Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847. [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/)

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website: [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students).

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: “It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.” All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**
Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed.

### Course Outline

**Final exam:** During exam period, it is the student’s responsibility to be available for the entire exam period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Introduction/Overview</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is abnormal?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>What the body knows</td>
<td>Chapters 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Anxiety &amp; Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Midterm 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>Chapters 1-7, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Mood Disorders &amp; Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Chapters 8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Feb 18</td>
<td>Study break</td>
<td>NO LECTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Substance Use &amp; Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Chapters 10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Sexual &amp; Gender Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aging &amp; Mental Health</td>
<td>Chapter 16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Midterm 2</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>Chapters 8-11, 13, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Developmental Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Therapies &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>Chapters 17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Mental Disorders &amp; the Law</td>
<td>Chapter 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 13-27</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>All assigned readings</td>
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