

CURRENT TOPICS IN ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYD33
Summer 2005

Instructor: Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier
Room S557A
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Office Hours: Thurs: 2-3 pm or 5-6 pm; Tues 3-4 pm

Lecture: Thurs: 3-5 pm in BW 526

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. Course readings will be assigned weekly. Copies of readings which are not available on-line will be placed in the library for short-term loan.

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to conduct an intensive examination of a cross-section of topics and research problems in abnormal psychology. Topics will include, but not be limited to, somatoform disorders, affective/mood disorders, substance-related disorders, eating disorders, schizophrenia, organic mental disorders, and anxiety disorders.

You may find that the seminar nature of this course is unlike many of the courses you have taken to date. In fact, the format of this course is similar to the type of learning experience you would gain in graduate school. As a result of the small class sizes of our D level courses at UTSC, there is a greater opportunity for independent learning. You are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each class and be able to actively contribute to our discussions.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. Tina Doyle, the UTSC AccessAbility Manager 416 287-7560 is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know about your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Grading Scheme

15%	Class Participation
20%	Oral Presentation
20%	Response Papers
5%	Proposal
40%	Literature Review

Class Participation:

A weekly mark out of 3 will be assigned for participation. This will be based on active participation in the class discussions and background knowledge based on the assigned readings. Students are expected to learn from each other by way of attendance and participation during

presentations.

Oral Presentation:

Each student will give one oral power point presentation during the term. Two/three students will present per week. Following a brief overview of the subject area you will discuss in-depth your empirical paper. Topics to be presented will be assigned following the first week of classes.

Response Papers:

Students will be required to submit 2 response papers over the term from 4 assigned readings. You may elect to submit all 4 response papers, but only your best 2 will be counted. From assigned readings, students will critically examine one aspect of the research. For example, you may choose to examine a problem with the paper that could have been better addressed, try and extend the research based on current findings (what would be the next step), or comment on how the paper integrates the findings with current developments in theories of this disease. Response papers should be 2 pages (maximum of 3 pages), double spaced, due no later than the start of the class. In addition this course will take advantage of "Turnitin". Details of this program follow. **NO LATE RESPONSE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Proposal and Final Paper

The proposal is due June 9. Your proposal should be approximately 1-2 pages in length and describe what your paper will be about. It should include evidence that you have begun an in-depth search of research studies and include some references that you will use in your paper.

The most common error students make in their proposals is trying to cover too much. For example, a paper on the "Causes and Treatment of Schizophrenia" would not be approved because it covers far too much information for your final paper. There is a vast literature on biological and genetic causes, psychological causes and treatments, and biological treatments and one or two of these would be enough for the final paper.

Final paper topics do not have to relate directly to the main topics covered in this course. The final review paper is expected to incorporate both a qualitative review of your chosen area of study and demonstrate your ability to review the research literature surrounding your area of study. For most topics the following headings can be used in your final paper:

- A. History of the disease (background, key people)
- B. Epidemiology (genetics)
- C. Pathophysiology
- D. Neurobehavioral aspects of the disorder
- E. Review of the research literature (This critical review of the literature should be based primarily on research in the past 3 years and should constitute the major part of the paper).

Final papers are due at the last class. Late proposals and final papers will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per day. Papers should be prepared according to the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition. Copies are available in the library. You must submit a hard copy of your final paper in class as well as a copy through TURNITIN.

Papers should be no longer than 30 pages.

Turnitin:

First, some background information on this program. Turnitin.com is a tool that assists in detecting textual similarities between compared works i.e.: it is an electronic resource that assists in the detection and deterrence of plagiarism.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

As indicated on the turnitin home page, all work submitted to Turnitin is checked against three databases of content:

- A current and archived copy of the publicly accessible Internet (more than 4.5 billion pages updated at a rate of 30-40 million pages per day);
- Millions of published works (from ABI/Inform, Periodical Abstracts, Business Dateline, ProQuest, the Gutenberg Collection of literary classics, and tens of thousands of electronic books);
- Millions of student papers submitted to Turnitin since 1996.

Students will submit all written reports to the turnitin.com site (www.turnitin.com). Detailed instructions on setting up your account can be found on this page. You must set up your own account and will need the following information: Course name, PSYD33; Class ID #, 1292214 ; Class Enrolment Password, abnormal.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/ota>

Tentative Course Outline

Date	Topic
May 12	Introduction
May 19	Research Methods and Models
May 26	Organic Mental Disorders I
June 2	Schizophrenia
June 9	Proposal Review by Appointment
June 16	Eating Disorders
June 23	Affective/Mood Disorders
June 30	Reading Week
July 7	Psychosexual Disorders
July 14	Anxiety Disorders
July 21	Organic Mental Disorders II
July 28	Somatoform Disorders
Aug 4	Substance-related Disorders

Important Dates for this Course

May 9	Classes begin
May 23	Last day to add Y and F courses
June 2	Response Paper 1 due
June 9	Proposals reviewed by appointment between 9 and 6 pm. Times confirmed June 2.
June 23	Response Paper 2 due
June 28 to July 1	Reading Week
July 14	Response Paper 3 due
July 24	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
July 28	Response Paper 4 due
Aug 4	Final Paper due