University of Toronto at Scarborough Department of Life Sciences

Abnormal Psychology PSYB32

Thursday's 7-9 pm, AC 223 Professor Konstantine Zakzanis

Professor Konstantine Zakzanis

Office Hours: Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm

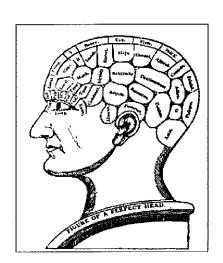
Office Locations: S-Wing 564

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Course Website:

http://intranet.utsc.utoronto.ca then select 'Courses', 'Psychology',

'PSYB32H3'



Overview of Abnormal Psychology

Throughout history, whether a person's behavior is labeled abnormal often has depended on the cultural norms for appropriate behavior and the gender and ethnicity of the person. Current definitions of abnormality focus on the person's ability to function in daily life and his or her level of distress and grasp of reality. Many biological and psychological tests are used to assess people's functioning and well-being. The information gathered in these tests is compared to criteria for diagnosing psychological disorders provided in guidebooks such as the DSM. Several modern biological and psychological theories provide different ways of understanding and treating people with psychological disorders. Most disorders appear to be influenced both by biological and psychosocial factors, and theories integrating these factors have proven most useful in understanding and treating abnormality.

The disorders that we will look at in detail involve maladaptive and distressing emotions, thoughts, cognitive deficits and behaviors, that are often chronic and pervade every aspect of people's lives. For example, people with anxiety disorders and mood disorders frequently experience extreme emotional distress that severely interferes with their ability to function in life. Biology, stressful experiences, and maladaptive ways of thinking all appear to contribute to the anxiety and mood disorders. Fortunately, there are several effective biological and psychosocial treatments for these disorders. In addition, psychosis is a loss of touch with reality, and is the hallmark of the disorder called

schizophrenia. Schizophrenia probably has strong biological roots, but can be influenced by environmental stress. Moreover, people with personality disorders maintain a consistent personality style, but it is a highly maladaptive style for them and for people around them. Substance use disorders similarly involve specific maladaptive behaviors and can have negative effects in many domains of life. Finally, cognitive disorders that are progressive in nature (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, progressive aphasia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, and multiple sclerosis) can have crippling effects and are becoming ever more prevalent given the burgeoning elderly population.

After reviewing the aforementioned disorders and understanding the nature of methodology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, it is hoped that this course will better able the student to answer the question "what is abnormality?"

Important Notes:

Every effort will be made to post the overheads on the course web-page prior to each lecture. However, on occasion, overheads will be posted following the lecture should there be any server problems (which has happened in the past).

Also, please note that if for any reason (e.g., snow-storm cancellation, unexpected illness) a lecture is cancelled because of an unforeseen circumstance, students are still responsible for the material that was to be presented in the lecture.

Lastly, there will be a number of persons invited to give brief talks/demonstrations of their work as it relates to course content. To this end, prior to each visit, I will announce the content of the talk/demonstration. These health care professions will join us to share their experience and understanding of specific course content, and it is important that you attend. However, there may be some content that some individuals might find offensive—such is the case when our topic is abnormal psychology, and if this is such to anyone, you will not be penalized should you wish to leave a lecture. Again, these talks/demonstrations are meant to help you answer the question "what is abnormality?"

Textbook:

Abnormal Psychology (Second Canadian Edition)

By: Gerald C. Davidson, John M. Neale, Kirk R. Blankstein & Gordon L. Flett

The study guide is highly recommended

Grading Scheme:

(1) First Examination worth 30% of your final grade

• Your 1st examination will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions.

(2) Second Examination worth 30% of your final grade

• Your 2nd examination will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions.

(4) Your Final Examination is worth 40% of your final grade

• Your final examination will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions.

Important Dates:

September 5	Labour Day University closed.
September 12	Classes begin in F and Y courses.
September 25	Last day to add F and Y courses.
October 10	Thanksgiving Day University closed.
November 6	Last day to drop F courses without academic penalty.*
December 5	Last day of classes in F courses. Last day for submission of term
	assignments in F courses.
December 6-9	Study Break.
December 10-21	Final examinations in F courses. 2005 Summer deferred examinations.
December 22-	December break University closed.
January 3	·

*NOTE: Students with a disability/health consideration are encouraged to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office @287-7560. They can also drop by the office, S302B, inside the Resource Centre. The Coordinator is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.

Lecture Dates & Readings:

September 15: Welcome; Course Description and Requirements

Readings: Chapter 1: Introduction, Definitional and Historical Considerations

September 22:

Readings: Chapter 2: Current Paradigms and the Role of Cultural Factors

Chapter 3: Classification and Diagnosis

September 29:

Readings: Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment Procedures

Chapter 5: Research Methods in the Study of Abnormal

Psychology

October 6:

Readings: Chapter 6: Anxiety Disorders

October 13:

Readings: Chapter 7: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders

Chapter 8: Psychophysiological Disorders and Health Psychology

October 20: Fist Examination worth 30 % of your final grade

The exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions from chapters 1-8.

October 27:

Readings: Chapter 9: Eating Disorders

Chapter 10: Mood Disorders

November 3:

Readings: Chapter 11: Schizophrenia

Chapter 12: Substance Related Disorders

November 10:

Readings: Chapter 13: Personality Disorders

Chapter 14: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders

November 17:

Readings: Chapter 16: Aging and Psychological Disorders

November 24: Second Examination worth 30% of your final grade

The exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions from chapters 9-14

December 1:

Readings: Chapter 17: Outcomes and Issues in Psychological Intervention Chapter 18: Legal and Ethical Issues

December 10-21: Final Examination Period

Your Final Examination is worth 40% of your final grade and will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. You will be tested on material from all chapters and related material that have been covered throughout the term.

As soon as they are finalized, examination schedules are posted on the web at: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar