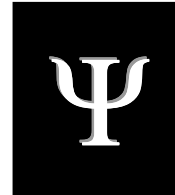

CURRENT TOPICS IN ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY



Alternative views on the understanding, evaluation
and treatment of psychological disorders

Course Instructor

Zachariah Campbell

Course Code

PSYD33H3

Lecture Details

Monday 7-9 PM (MW 262)

Office Hour Details

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 PM (SY 178)

Contact email

zac.campbell@utoronto.ca

Brief Description

The objective of this course is to survey the discipline of clinical psychology by thoroughly examining topic areas that are of current relevance. Overall, this course employs a seminar-based curriculum. As such, you will find the nature of this course to be unlike many of the courses you have taken to date. Moreover, a seminar is much like the type of learning experience you would gain in either graduate or medical school. Due to the smaller size, there is a greater opportunity for independent learning under the supervision of the instructor.

Since this is a survey course, students are expected to contribute to the curriculum by selecting an appropriate topic to research and write a review paper. Students are also required to present their topic to the class by way of a formal presentation. Areas worthy of consideration include in depth analyses of individual psychological disorders, different treatment modalities, or specific assessment techniques. To this end, students will be able to gain knowledge within a personal area of interest that is germane to this course and disseminate that knowledge to their fellow students.

This course will also incorporate a weekly discussions and thought papers which will concern controversial issues within abnormal psychology. To this end, there is a required textbook (see further on in this syllabus for specific details) from which the most popular issues will be discussed at length in class.

Important Details

- A. All course related inquiries are to be directed to the instructor's email address listed on the first page. Please ensure that you must put "PSYD33H3" into the subject line of every email to ensure that it is properly. Students should also only email from their utsc or utoronto accounts.
- B. Every enrolled student must ensure that they have access to the course website via the U of T portal. All course related content will be posted here (e.g., lecture slides, important announcements, and midterm grades). Aside from the use of Microsoft PowerPoint for presentations, the only format that will be used for all other posted documents is Adobe PDF. Free reading software is available at www.adobe.com.
- C. The prerequisites for this course are PSYB32H3 and one C-level half-credit in psychology.

- D. If a lecture is cancelled because of an unforeseen circumstance (e.g., unexpected illness), students are still responsible for the material that was to be discussed that day (e.g., lecture slides, assigned readings).
- E. If a student is absent for their presentation or a term test due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible. For medical reasons, students must use the University of Toronto Student Medical certificate.
- F. 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. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.
- G. Lastly, please note that the University of Toronto treats academic integrity very seriously. To this end, the instructor will fully adhere to the University's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters \(1995\)](#).

Required Reading

Halgin, R. (2008). *Taking Sides – Clashing Views in Abnormal Psychology*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

Grading Scheme

Attendance & Participation (15%)

Students are expected to learn from each other by way of timely attendance (not arriving beyond 10 minutes after the hour) and participation during student presentations. Attendance will be taken 10 minutes after the hour of the beginning hour of class.

Term Paper Proposal (10%)

Your proposal is due in class as a hard copy on January 20th. Before the next class, each proposal will be reviewed by the instructor to determine (1) whether your area of interest is suitable for critical review, (2) you have clearly outlined your research question(s) and, (3) provided evidence of an exhaustive search of the literature. Two to three content pages

(exclusive of title page and references section) formatted according to APA 5th Edition specifications is required for this and all other assignments.

Class Presentation (25%)

Students are required to present a 10-minute review of a current topic within their chosen area of study followed by 5 minutes of questions. The evaluation of your presentation will be based on your demonstrated knowledge of your chosen topic area. This will be assessed by way of the delivery of your presentation, the organization of your material, and your ability to develop and moderate debate within the audience. To this end, you are required to focus your presentation on one or more current issues that will allow for critical thinking within your audience. A strict time-limit of 10 minutes will be enforced so please practice and prepare ahead of time. All of the necessary equipment you will need to conduct your presentation will be provided. Students are expected to design their presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint as this is the software that is available with the provided equipment.

**Note: Students are required to email their presentations to the instructor one day before their presentation date (i.e., before midnight on the evening before class).*

Thought Papers (20%)

Each week, students are expected to submit a (hard-copy) thought paper (two pages double-spaced in length without the title page or references) on the readings specified for that week. The content of each paper should address one or more of the challenge questions listed at the end of the required reading for that week (i.e., within the textbook). Hard copies must be submitted before the beginning of each class. Those submitted after class has begun will be considered late (10% penalty). As with the weekly thought papers, grading will be based on style, clarity and scholarship. APA style (5th ed.) is also required for this assignment.

Term Paper (30%)

Students are required to complete a comprehensive review paper. The topic area must be approved by the instructor first. Focus should be either on the evaluation, understanding or treatment of psychological disorder. Other topic areas that are germane to abnormal or clinical psychology will also be considered.

Fifteen to twenty content pages (i.e., excluding title page, abstract, references, etc) are required. As with the weekly thought papers, grading will be based on style, clarity and scholarship. APA style (5th ed.) is also required and will be a component of the grade allocated for this assignment. Please also note that this assignment is due on the last day to submit term assignment in summer courses. For every subsequent day that it is late, 20% will be taken off the total possible grade that could be allocated to this assignment. Lastly, in addition to requirement of submitted a hard copy of your paper, the use of *Turnitin* will be requested (please see the following paragraph). If *Turnitin* is not used, students will be required to submit their rough notes and hard copies of the references that they sourced within their assignments.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com or a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site

Weekly Discussion Topics

Discussion Issues

The ten most popular topics included in the book will be determined by way of a vote across lecture sections. Please obtain the book from the bookstore and create a list of your five most preferred topics before the second lecture date.

Unit 1 – Psychological Conditions and Treatments

- Issue 1 Is Forced Treatment of Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals Justifiable?
- Issue 2 Should Individuals with Anorexia Nervosa Have the Right to Refuse Life-Sustaining Treatment?
- Issue 3 Is Psychological Debriefing a Harmful Intervention for Survivors of Trauma?
- Issue 4 Are Blocked and Recovered Memories Valid Phenomena?
- Issue 5 Is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) a Real Disorder?
- Issue 6 Should MDMA (Ecstasy) Be Prohibited, Even for Therapeutic Use?
- Issue 7 Should Abstinence Be the Goal for Treating People with Alcohol Problems?

Unit 2 – The Trend Toward Biological Interventions

- Issue 8 Should Memory-Dampening Drugs Be Used to Alleviate the Symptoms of Trauma?
- Issue 9 Are Antipsychotic Medications the Treatment of Choice for People with Psychosis?
- Issue 10 Is Ritalin Overprescribed?
- Issue 11 Should Psychologists Prescribe Medication?
- Issue 12 Is Electroconvulsive Therapy Ethical?

Unit 3 – Social Issues

- Issue 13 Is It Ethical to Support the Wish for Healthy Limb Amputation in People with Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID)?
- Issue 14 Is Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Ethical?
- Issue 15 Does Exposure to Media Violence Promote Aggressive Behavior?
- Issue 16 Would Legalization of Virtual Child Pornography Reduce Sexual Exploitation of Children?
- Issue 17 Does Evolution Explain Why Men Rape?
- Issue 19 Must Mentally Ill Murderers Have a Rational Understanding of Why They Are Being Sentenced to Death?

Schedule

Week 1 – January 6

Welcome

- General introduction
- Course description and requirements

Week 2 – January 13

Topic Selection/Lecture: Clinical Psychology & DSM-IV

- Psychological evaluation: assessor, clinical interview, psychometric testing, diagnostic formulation, report writing, recommendations
- Clinical intervention: psychotherapy, medication, and other alternatives
- DSM-IV & The multi-axial approach
- Reading: First, M. B., & Westen, D. (2007). Classification for clinical practice: how to make ICD and DSM better able to serve clinicians. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 19, 473-481

Week 3 – January 20
Discussion Issue: TBA

Week 4 – January 27
Term Paper Proposals Due
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 5 – February 3
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 6 – February 10
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Reading Week – February 15-19

Week 7 – February 24
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 8 – March 3
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 9 – March 10
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 10 – March 17
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 11 – March 24
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Week 12 – March 31
Discussion Issue: TBA
Presentation 1: TBA
Presentation 2: TBA
Presentation 3: TBA

Term Paper Due – March 31