

**Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology (PSYD33H3 S Lecture 2)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS – WINTER 2011**

Instructor: Dr. Anthony C. Ruocco

Office Hours: Thursdays @ 12:00-1:00pm

Location: Science Wing, Room 513

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Class Time and Location: Thursdays @ 1:00-3:00pm in Bladen Wing, Room 361

*Please note: Course announcements will generally be made through Blackboard. Please monitor the course site regularly.*

**Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology** is a seminar course designed to provide you with an up-to-date treatment of the latest research on the causes of and interventions for mental illness. You are taking this course at a critical time in the history of abnormal psychology. With the latest revision to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders on the horizon, we are witnessing ground-breaking changes to the way that we define and diagnose mental illness. You may find this seminar course different from a typical lecture course because you will be encouraged to engage in discussion and debate with your peers about important topics. You will also be more involved in delivering information you have researched to rest of the class rather than listen to lectures from the course instructor. By the end of this course, you will have acquired the skills to do the following:

1. Describe the proposed changes to diagnosing mental illness in the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders;
2. Identify the key causes and most effective treatments for the major categories of mental illness based on the latest research findings; and
3. Identify how specific forms of mental illness may be manifested across a variety of culture-bound syndromes.

Course Evaluation:

45%	Final Paper
40%	In-Class Presentation
10%	Class Attendance & Participation
5%	Proposal for Paper

**Final Paper (45%)** consists of a written report which reviews the latest research on a specific topic as it pertains to a major mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder). The purpose of this research paper is to help you gain an in-depth understanding of a cutting-edge research question as it pertains to a specific form of mental illness that sparks your interest the most. Some examples of strong research topics include:

*Is there any truth to the notion that vaccines cause autism?*

*Do schizophrenia and bipolar disorder share genetic causes?*

*Are there brain abnormalities in psychopaths that can explain their violent behaviour?*

*What effects do stimulant medications have on the brains of children with attention deficit disorder?*

*Can brain surgery cure obsessive-compulsive disorder?*

*Does family therapy help improve bipolar disorder symptoms?*

*What is Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and is it effective in treating depression?*

*Does mindfulness meditation reduce self-harming behaviours in borderline personality disorder?*

Your specific topic will be chosen in collaboration with the course instructor on the second week of classes. **Requirements for the paper** include 20 single-sided pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12-point size) and at least 10 references (use American Psychological Association style).

*A note on plagiarism:* Please review this website which describes tips on how not to plagiarize: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>. You will submit all written reports to the turnitin.com site. 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). Detailed instructions on setting up your account can be found at <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for 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.

You must submit a *hard copy* of your paper on the final scheduled class meeting (April 7, 2011) AND you should submit an *electronic copy* of your paper through turnitin.com by the last day for submission of term assignments (April 8, 2011).

Steps for you to set up your own account and submit papers are described on this web site: <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>

To sign up, you will need the Class ID (3746277) and Class Enrolment Password (dsm5).

**Proposal for the Paper (5%)** is a two-page written document that outlines your chosen topic for the final paper. Dr. Ruocco will email you with feedback on your proposal, including any changes in how you should focus the topic of your final paper. Due: Week 3 (January 27).

**In-Class Presentation (40%)** is an aural presentation of the latest research findings pertaining to either (1) *etiology/cause* or (2) *treatment* of a major mental illness. Your presentation will focus on the same category of mental illness as your paper. A specific mental illness will be discussed each week. The first presenter will discuss the latest findings on etiology/cause and the second presenter will describe treatment approaches. The presentations should be no longer than 25 minutes. We will spend approximately 10 minutes discussing the research findings.

**Class Attendance and Participation (10%)** will be assessed by weekly attendance and participation in discussion of weekly presentations.

Weekly Schedule and Key Dates:

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	January 13	Introduction and Syllabus Review
2	January 20	Toward DSM-V Required Readings: (1) <a href="http://www.dsm5.org/">http://www.dsm5.org/</a> (2) Regier, D A, et al. (2009). The conceptual development of DSM-V. <i>The American Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 166, 645-650. Visit the link below to directly access this reading online: <a href="http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129454">http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129454</a>
3	January 27	Schizophrenia
4	February 3	Bipolar Disorder
5	February 10	Autism Spectrum Disorders
6	February 17	Attention Deficit Disorder
	February 24	READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)
7	March 3	Major Depressive Disorder
8	March 10	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
9	March 17	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
10	March 24	Eating Disorders (e.g., Anorexia, Bulimia Nervosa)
11	March 31	Substance Use Disorders (e.g., Alcohol, Drug Dependence)
12	April 7	Personality Disorders (e.g., Borderline, Antisocial)
	April 8	Last day of classes in S courses and last day for submission of term assignments in S courses.
	April 11	Last day to drop S courses and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty. After this date, grades are recorded on transcripts whether course work is completed or not (with a '0' assigned for incomplete work) and they are calculated into GPAs.

Accessibility:

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. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. 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](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

Video and Auditory Recording

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology*. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld."

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

### Grade Scales and Meaning of Grades

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3
73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0

Please note that assignment of an “A” grade in this course indicates that your work suggests that you are prepared for post-graduate work.