

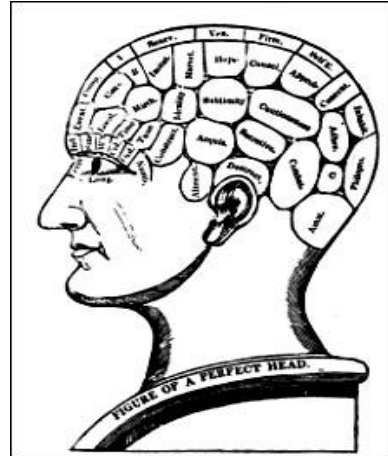
University of Toronto Scarborough
Department of Psychology

Abnormal Psychology

PsyB32

Web Option
On Line Lectures Only

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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:

THIS COURSE IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AS A WEB-OPTION COURSE ONLY.

In brief, this web-only course is described as follows:

Given that UTSC uses a trimester system, we want to provide the strongest set of course offerings possible over the summer term. However, students are often working or traveling over the summer, and the professors are often deeply engaged in their research. This can make it difficult for professors to offer traditional courses, or for students to attend them when they do. The webOption has provided an interesting and effective way of offering students a good course selection, while also allowing both the students and professors a much higher level of flexibility in terms of having to be on campus on a regular basis.

Specifically, when a course is offered via either the Augmented Class Model or the Value-Added Model described above, we have videos of the lectures from the term in which they were taught (always either the Fall or Winter term of the previous year to keep things fresh!). The professor who offered that original course is typically happy to administer a summer offering of the course in which their previous lectures are simply reposted over the course of the summer online, and both they and the students need only to be present for exams.

By this model the lectures can only be viewed online as there are no traditional lectures that are being delivered simultaneous with the course. However, this online delivery is perfect for most of our students as they can now easily view lectures no matter what their work schedule, and they can literally watch the lectures from anywhere in the world. As long as they can be on campus for the exams, the rest they can do from any location.

Textbook:

Abnormal Psychology (Fourth 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 40% of your final grade

- *Your 1st examination will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions.*

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

- *Your 2nd examination will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions.*

(3) Your Final Examination is worth 30% of your final grade

- *Your final examination will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions.*

Important Dates: 2013 Summer Session

Friday, April 26	Last day to pay fees.
Monday, May 6	Classes begin in F and Y courses.
Sunday, May 12	Last day for students writing deferred examinations in August to adjust their current course load (on ROSI only).
Monday, May 20	Last day to add F and Y courses (on ROSI only).
Monday, May 20	Victoria Day -> University closed.
Monday, June 10	Last day to drop F courses without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript.
Monday, June 17	Last day to drop UTSC F courses (on eService only) and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty. After this date grades are assigned whether or not course work is complete (with a '0' assigned for incomplete work) and are calculated into GPAs. (Note: See www.utoronto.ca/registrar for LWD dates for courses on other campuses.)
Monday, June 17	Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in F courses.

Tuesday, June 18 - Saturday, June 22	Reading Week. (Note: No UTSC classes held; final examinations in UTSC F courses held. Classes or exams on other campuses may be held).
Tuesday, June 18 - Saturday, June 22	Final examinations in F courses.
Monday, June 24	Classes begin in S courses and resume in Y courses.
Monday, July 1	Canada Day -> University closed.
Monday, July 8	Last day to add S courses.
Monday, July 22	Last day to drop Y courses without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript.
Monday, July 29	Last day to drop S courses without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript.
Thursday, August 1	Last day to confirm intention to graduate at the 2013 Fall Convocation.
Monday, August 5	Civic Holiday -> University Closed.
Tuesday, August 6	Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in S and Y courses. (Note: Classes are held on this day <u>only</u> for courses that normally meet on a Monday.)
Wednesday, August 7	Study Break.
Wednesday, August 7 - Tuesday, August 20	2013 Winter deferred examinations.
Wednesday, August 7	Last day to drop UTSC S and Y courses (on eService only) and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty. After this date grades are assigned whether or not course work is completed (with a '0' assigned for incomplete work) and are calculated into GPAs. (Note: See www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar for LWD dates for courses on other campuses).
Thursday, August 8 - Tuesday, August 20	Final examinations in S and Y courses.
November TBA	2013 Fall Convocation. Check "Ceremony Dates" at www.convocation.utoronto.ca/ for the date of the UTSC ceremony.

***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:

Week of May 6:

Welcome; Course Description and Requirements

Chapter 1: Introduction, Definitional and Historical Considerations

Week of May 13:

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

Week of May 20:

Readings:
Chapter 3: Classification and Diagnosis
Chapter 5: Research Methods in the Study of Abnormal Psychology

Week of May 27:

Readings: Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment Procedures

Week of June 3:

First Examination worth 40 % of your final grade

The exam will consist of 80 multiple choice questions from chapters 1-5.

An exact location and time will be announced as soon as it has been scheduled by the registrars

Week of June 10:

Readings: Chapter 7: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
Chapter 6: Anxiety Disorders

Guest: Christopher Rodriguez, Gestalt Institute.

Week of June 17:

Readings: Chapter 8: Mood Disorders
Chapter 10: Eating Disorders

Guest: Nancy / Luc

Week of June 24: READING WEEK (No Class).

Week of July 1:

Readings: Chapter 14: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders

Guest: James Cantor, Ph.D., CAMH Scientist. (*Please note the content of this lecture may offend some. You have been forewarned).

Week of July 8:

Second Examination worth 30% of your final grade

The exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions from chapters 6, 7, 8, 10 and 14

An exact location and time will be announced as soon as it has been scheduled by the registrars

Week of July 15:

Readings: Chapter 11: Schizophrenia

Week of July 22:

Readings: Chapter 12: Substance Related Disorders
Chapter 13: Personality Disorders

Week of July 29:

Readings: Chapter 16: Aging and Psychological Disorders

August 8 – 20:

Final Examination Period

Your Final Examination is worth 30% of your final grade and will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions. You will be tested on material from chapters 11, 12, 13 and 16.

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

FAQ:

Q: I missed the midterm, can I write the makeup?

A: Only those with a [UTSC Medical Certificate](#) signed by a licensed physician explaining why you were absent for the midterm **ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM** will be permitted to write the makeup examination.

Q: I will be outside of the country during the test, can I write the makeup?

A: No. As a responsible student, you expected to plan excursions accordingly. As soon as the registrar sends us a copy of the midterm/final examination schedule, we will post an announcement.

Q: *I don't have all of the pre-requisites for this course, can still be enrolled?*

A: No. Pre-requisites are in place for a reason; many of the concepts build upon the content learned from these courses. Allowing an exception would be unfair to the other students who took the pre-requisites.

Q: *I am not happy with my mark, is there anything I can do to improve it – like an extracurricular assignment?*

A: The best way to improve a mark is to study, study, study. The more you review the material, the more you will be able to 'speak the language' of abnormal psychology. Ask us questions – we're here for you. Sorry, no extracurricular assignments.

Q: *I missed the makeup, can I write another exam or can I have my marks reweighed?*

A: If you have another valid medical reason for missing the makeup, please email one of us directly.

Q: *I am on academic probation and I need a bump on my final mark otherwise I will be kicked out of school! Can you please bump my mark?*

A: This situation is unfortunate, but as much as we would like to help, it would be unethical and unfair to the rest of the students to bump a mark for an individual.