



Current Issues in Abnormal Psychology (PSYD33 – Fall 2015)

Instructor: Lisa Fiksenbaum, Ph.D

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm in Science Wing, Room 316

Office Hours and Location: By Appointment: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00pm in TBA

Office Phone: TBA

Email: TBA@utsc.utoronto.ca

Make sure when you send email that you include:

- a. your name and student number
- b. either the course number (i.e., PSYD33) or course title (i.e., Current Issues in Abnormal Psychology) in the subject line of the email.

**** Please note:** Course announcements will be made through Blackboard. Students are responsible for monitoring the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. ******

Prerequisites: PSYB32H3 plus one C-level half-credit in PSY

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The main objective of this course is to deepen your understanding in the area of adult psychopathology by reviewing concepts, theories, controversies, and empirical findings. The course will emphasize descriptive psychopathology looking at issues of etiology, classification, and larger social and cultural factors, and less on treatment. The first part of the course will examine the key issues, ideas, and concepts in psychopathology, providing students with a set of conceptual tools that will help them read more thoroughly and critically the second half of the course, which focuses on current controversies with the DSM-5.

Weekly based seminars will focus on examining key issues related to psychopathology. Through class discussions of the readings, you will develop an attitude of critical thinking that includes open mindedness, intellectual engagement, skepticism, tolerance for ambiguity and socio-cultural considerations.

Course Participation

A list of required readings that will be made available to you each week. It is imperative that you carefully read the required materials before coming to class. The course will be interactive and its success is dependent upon your preparation, involvement and discussion. Each week, two students will be responsible for leading class discussion. These students will be responsible for

providing well-composed discussion questions about the readings to stimulate reactions and critical thought. The entire class will be continuously assessed for level of class participation, critical thinking and command of the reading material.

Required Readings

Required course readings will be made available through Blackboard.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and describe psychiatric disorders and psychological distress in a multicultural world
- Demonstrate an understanding of the current edition of the DSM
- Critically discuss existing issues and controversies associated with the current edition of the DSM
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theoretical and empirical research findings from biological, socio-cultural, and psychological perspectives concerning the causes and treatment of the major psychological disorders

Course Requirements

For this course, you will be expected to lead one class discussion (described above), complete one term paper and prepare an oral presentation. There will also be a mid-term exam, and you will be assessed on your participation throughout the course. Please note that there are NO opportunities for extra credit to improve your grade at any time during this course or once the course is over.

Term Paper: 35%

Term Paper Proposal: 5%

Oral Presentation: 20%

Mid-term Exam: 25%

Class Attendance & Participation: 10%

Peer Evaluation of Student Presentations: 5%

Term Paper

The DSM-5 has been fraught with a number of controversies. Your term paper will involve researching a major controversy with the DSM-5, psychopathology and clinical process. You will be asked to do three things: 1) thoroughly review the background literature around this controversy, 2) discuss clinical implications of your findings, and 3) suggest future directions in research. On the last day of class, you will hand in a 10 to 12 page paper, double spaced, 12 font, 1" margins, with no limit to the number of references you use. Most of your references will be empirical studies from peer-reviewed journals, however additional references in the form of books, reviews, analyses and critiques will also prove beneficial.

Prior to submission of the paper, please submit a proposal (worth 5% of your grade) outlining the topic, clarifying both the controversy and your thesis, the basic structure of the paper (e.g., which

arguments you will consider), and noting why this topic is significant to the field of clinical science (the proposal will be approximately 1-2 pages). You should submit your proposal/outline no later than October 6. The final paper, which is due on the last day of classes, will be graded based on depth of thinking, clarity of arguments, ability to analyze and synthesize a range of resources in order to develop your own position, and organization.

Oral Presentation

You will each conduct an in-class PowerPoint presentation based on the topic covered in your paper. This presentation will be 15 minutes in length followed by a few minutes for questions. The presentation will be graded based on clarity of the arguments presented, structure and organization, ability to integrate multiple perspectives yet still present a clear thesis, and evidence of understanding of the complexities of the issue. Please submit a copy of the slides to the instructor on the day of your presentation.

Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term will cover material presented in lectures (including Powerpoint and video presentations) and related course readings. The midterm will be composed of material from weeks 1-5 and will include multiple choice and short answer. No study aids will be permitted during the test.

Peer Evaluation of Student Presentations

For each presentation, students will rate their peers using the evaluation form that will be posted on Blackboard. In addition to filling out the evaluation forms for each speaker, each student will be required to come up with at least one thoughtful question or comment. While students will put their names on the evaluation form, this information will not be shared with the presenter. Instead a tally of the numbers and summary of the comments may be available to the speaker if requested.

Weekly Topics, Readings, and Important Dates

Week	Date	Topic
1.	September 8	Introduction, review of syllabus. Conceptions of Psychopathology
2.	September 15	The Role of Gender, Culture, and Class in Psychopathology
3.	September 22	Classification and Diagnosis: Historical Development and Contemporary Issues
4.	September 29	Psychological Assessment and Clinical Judgment
5.	October 6 Term Proposal Due	Legal and Ethical Issues
6.	October 13	READING WEEK – NO CLASS
7.	October 20	Mid-Term Exam
8.	October 27	Review of Exam and 1:1 meetings with students to discuss presentations and final paper
9.	November 3	Student Presentations – DSM-5 Controversy
10.	November 10	Student Presentations – DSM-5 Controversy
11.	November 17	Student Presentations – DSM-5 Controversy

12.	November 24	Student Presentations – DSM-5 Controversy
13.	December 1 Final Paper Due	Student Presentations – DSM-5 Controversy

(Please note: The class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances)

The Writing Centre:

Your performance in this class will depend in large part upon your ability to communicate clearly and effectively. The Writing Centre supports student learning at any stage in the writing process, from planning an outline to polishing a final draft. Their services include online resources, drop-in hours, one-to-one consultations, and writing workshops. Additional information can be found at: <http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/main>

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 your final written report 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>.

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 an electronic copy of your final paper through Turnitin.com. All submissions midnight or later will be counted as late submissions. 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>

Accessibility:

If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Access Ability Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and Access Ability Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course.

Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC Access Ability 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.

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/>).

Policies for this Course Regarding Grading, Late Assignments and Missed Presentations:

Grading:

Any complaint about grading on any course evaluation should be made *in writing within one week* of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

Late Assignments:

If you do not have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each late day (this includes any time after the deadline, so please be sure to submit your assignments well in advance of the specified deadlines).

If you provide legitimate documentation for your late assignment (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you must contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss a new deadline for your late assignment(s).

Please take note of the last day for submission of term assignments (as set by the University). If you wish to submit work to be graded beyond the last day for submission of term assignments, you must contact the Registrar's office to submit a petition (this is beyond the instructor's control).

Missed Presentation:

If you miss your presentation without legitimate documentation, you will receive a mark of zero.

If you provide legitimate documentation for your missed examination (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you will be given one additional opportunity to make your presentation.

Medical Documentation:

Any medical documentation that you provide must indicate the date (s) that you needed to be excused from course work, which must include the date of the presentation and/or assignment(s) that you missed. You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed examination. Only documentation from a doctor registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario will be accepted (as per the UTSC Medical Certificate).

The form for medical documentation can be found at the following link:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf

Please Note: The UTSC Medical Certificate must be signed by a registered member in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

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
67-79	C+	2.3
63-67	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