



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2021

PY4390 (A3): Abnormal Psychology – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ali M. AL-Asadi **PHONE:** 780-539-2061
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointments

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and a reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on understanding the concepts and theories underlying assessment, diagnosis, and treatment modalities of various psychological disorders, with emphasis on the multimodal treatment approach.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: PY3330

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Textbook consists of a collection of reading materials, articles, and other resources based on Open-Sourced texts are be posted on this course's D2L site at: <https://myclass.gprc.ab.ca/d2l/home>

DELIVERY MODE(S): Online and Recorded Lectures, Discussions, & Video Conference

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course introduces students to:

- the major theories, perspectives and concepts in the development of abnormalities and psychopathology
- the history and evolution of our understanding of psychological disorders
- the DSM classification system and criteria used to identify disorders
- classes of disorders such as personality, mood, and psychotic disorders, as well as specific disorders such as borderline and narcissistic personalities, depression and bi-polar mood, and schizophrenia
- the relationships between psychological disorders and biological, personality, and social aspects
- the various school of thoughts on the development and causality of mental illness
- the methods of evaluation and assessment of abnormalities and psychological disorders
- the various methods of treatment of psychological disorders

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, students will be able to:

- define, describe, and evaluate the methods of assessment of normal and abnormal behaviours

- identify the critical periods and describe the historical evolution of our understanding of psychological disorders
- describe the DSM classification system and its general and specific criteria for diagnosing mental illness
- identify the advantages and disadvantages of using the DSM classification system
- identify broadly the diagnostic criteria for each class of psychological disorder/mental illness
- articulate how various theories and school of thoughts explain the development of mental illness
- identify and explain the relationships between mental illnesses and persons' biological, personal, familial, and social aspects
- identify and explain the various treatment modalities for the various psychological disorders
- of the person of motivation: Hull, Maslow, McClellan, and others.

TRANSFERABILITY:

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.**

EVALUATIONS:

Exam 1	25%	
Exam 2	25%	
Exam 3	25%	
Research Essay	25%	Due on April 10 th

* The nature, scope, and depth of the written essay will be discussed in class.

* Remember, all exams may include questions from lectures that may not be covered by your textbook.

Research Essay (Value: 25% of course grade)

The research essay shall focus on a topic which is of interest to the student. It may be related to any of the topics covered in class or textbook. Examples of research topics are: significant historical event(s) in the history of madness; topics on an aspect of a particular disorder; topics on relationships between disorders, for example, comorbidities; topics on traditional and more contemporary interventions for a particular disorder (for example, art, music, drama, dance, sport, and animal therapy); topics on assessment and diagnostic issues with particular disorder; topics related to ethical and professional conduct issues; and topics on the efficacy of clinical treatments including online therapy. Other topics may be considered if a student can show relevancy to the field of psychopathology. The research paper will be based on a minimum of 8 peer reviewed published articles plus other sources. The paper shall

be about 3000 words in length (typed and double-spaced APA style). The word limit does not include a title page, abstract page, and a reference page. Papers must be written and typed in proper and current APA format (6th edition), 12-point font and approximately a one-inch margin on all sides of text. Papers should be checked to ensure that spelling, grammar, and sentence structure are correct. The grade of the essay will be based on: a clear and concise introduction that indicates the overall structure of the essay and the purpose of the work; a concise integrative synthesis of research articles and references while illustrating the ability of critical thinking; a good structure, logical flow and clarity of style; a good conclusion that summarizes the main themes and findings of the work; and the overall presentation of the work and the appropriateness of the selected references.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94	C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	75-79	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topics	Evaluation
Week 1	Clinical Research, Assessment, Classification and DSM	
Week 2	Historical and Contemporary Views	
Week 3	Personality Disorders	
Week 4	Personality Disorders	
Week 5	Mood Disorders	Exam 1 25%
Week 6	Mood Disorders	
Week 7	Psychotic Disorders	
Week 8	Psychotic Disorders	
Week 9	Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	Exam 2 25%
Week 10	Sexual Disorders	
Week 11	Panic & Anxiety Disorders	
Week 12	Cognitive Disorders	
Week 13	Eating Disorders	
Week 14	Stress & Adjustment. Health Disorders	
Week 15	No Classes. Final Exam Period. Exam is scheduled by	E3 25% Final

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The assigned readings and exercises for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course depends heavily on practice exercises, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course. In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact the instructor immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with the instructor about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

If a student is unable to attend an in-class test or quiz, the instructor must be advised before the test/quiz is administered. Voice mail or e-mail notification is fine. The test/quiz will then be written later at the testing centre or pre-arranged location. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence will result in a grade of 0 on that test/quiz.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Additional Information

1. The format of each exam will be discussed in class.
2. Exam grades are final and there is no substitute work for your poor exam grade.
3. The nature and topics of your written paper will be discussed in class
4. It is your responsibility to read each and every chapter and assigned reading (if any) and attend all lectures.
5. Lectures will not always cover material in your chapters. Lectures may cover topics and include materials that are not covered by your textbook. It is therefore imperative that you attend every class as your exams may include materials from the lectures that are not covered by your textbook.
6. It is expected that students will display a professional attitude and behaviour. These attitudes and behaviours are many and will be discussed in class. Any violation or misconduct may result in dismissal from the class.
7. Talk to me if you have concerns or you are experiencing difficulties that may have negative impact on your academic performance.