



SDNY PSYC 3361
Abnormal Psychology
CAPA SYDNEY PROGRAM
Spring 2020

Faculty: tba

Contact: Email via CANVAS
Classes: tba

Course Description

This course provides a contemporary overview of the psychological, biological and experiential factors thought to influence human mental disorders. It will address questions such as What is 'abnormal'? What causes mental illness and how do we treat them? Each week students will explore a different disorder (for example, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, schizophrenia) and discuss the symptoms, causes and empirically supported treatments. One seminar will focus on Sydney and the geographic divide in notions of fitness, the body and beach culture.

Course Aims

- To provide students with a contemporary view of the psychological and biological theories and issues associated with human psychopathology.
- To provide an overview and discussion of the notion of abnormal behaviour, diagnostic practice, stigma, aetiology, prognosis and treatment in major mental disorders.
- To explore the ever-changing relationships between bodies, oceans and beaches in Australian society and the spatial dimensions in Sydney.

Requirements and Prerequisites

Students who have completed university level units will be able to engage fully with the course. The course is intended as an introduction (or primer) to Abnormal Psychology. This course is appropriate for students with and without a background in science. Some background in psychology is useful but not essential.

Learning and Development Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.
- c. Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.

- d. Demonstrate effective written communication skills in psychology for the purpose of informing and debating.

Class methodology

Classes will comprise lectures and seminar-style discussion with periodic quizzes. Students will be required to prepare for class by reading ahead and completing the online quizzes.

Field Component(s)

CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity(s) for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Guidance on each of these components will be offered in class.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in co-curricular *My Global Cities* activities.

Assessment and Grading

Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed
1. Participation	10%	a, b, c.
2. Online quizzes	30%	a, b, c.
3. Essay	30%	a, b, c, d
4. Final exam	30%	a, b, c, d

Descriptor	Alpha	Numeric	GPA	Requirements
Excellent	A	93+	4.0	Shows superior use and understanding of extensive literature beyond the textbook and notes
	A-	90 - 92	3.7	
Good	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows significant use and understanding of extensive literature beyond the textbook and notes
	B	83 - 86	3.0	
	B-	80 - 82	2.7	
Average	C+	77 - 79	2.3	Shows a clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond
	C	73 - 76	2.0	
Below Average/ Poor	C-	70 - 72	1.7	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
	D+	67 - 69	1.3	
	D	60 - 66	0.7-1.0	
Fail	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in Faculty Handbook

1. Class Participation (10%)

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions (via the Online Discussion Forum) in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion.

Please review the following table as a guide:

Grade	Discussion	Reading
A range	Excellent: consistent contributor; offers original analysis and comments; always has ideas on topics of the readings; takes care not to dominate discussion.	Obviously has completed all readings; intelligently uses resultant understanding to formulate comments and questions for the discussion.
B+	Very Good: frequent, willing, and able contributor; generally offers thoughtful comments based on the readings.	Has done most of the readings; provides competent analysis of the readings and applies insights from class appropriately.
B / B-	Satisfactory: frequent contributor; basic grasp of key concepts but little original	Displays familiarity with some readings and related concepts but tends not to analyse them.

	insight; comments/questions are of a general nature.	
C range	Poor: sporadic contributor; comments/questions portray lack of understanding of key concepts; often digresses in unhelpful ways.	Displays familiarity with few readings; rarely demonstrates analytical thought.
D / F	Very Poor: rarely speaks; merely quotes text or repeats own comments or those of others.	Little to no apparent familiarity with assigned material or application to relevant discussion.

2. Online quizzes (30%)

Students will complete three online quizzes. These will be multiple choice and will be a review and evaluation of student engagement with course material.

3. Essay (30%)

A written assignment in essay format will be required for submission. The questions and instructions will be detailed in class. Due date: tba.

4. Final Exam (30%)

Students will complete a final exam at the end of the course. This will be based on lectures, readings and materials discussed in seminars in the second half of the course. The exam will comprise both short answer and long answer questions as well as case study questions.

Course Materials

Required Readings

Text. Durand, V.M., Barlow, D.H., and Hofmann, S.G. 2018. *Essentials of Abnormal Psychology*. 8th edition. Cengage Learning.

Other materials will be available through CANVAS.

Weekly Schedule

Date	Seminar topics	Class activities
	<p>Seminar 1: Introduction to Psychopathology</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapters 1 and 3</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Online</p> <p>No online requirement for the first week</p>
	<p>Seminar 2: Psychology Theories—Emotion, Fear, Anxiety</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Online Discussion</p>
	<p>Seminar 3: Mood Disorders</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Online Revision Quiz 1</p>
	<p>Seminar 4: Anxiety Disorders</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapter 4</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Online Discussion</p>
	<p>Seminar 5: Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapter 12</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Online Revision Quiz 2</p>
	<p>Seminar 6: Substance Use and Abuse</p> <p>Required Reading</p> <p>Chapter 10</p>	<p>Class Lecture</p> <p>Mid-Semester Exam</p>

	Mid-Semester Break Week	
	Seminar 7: Eating and Sleep Disorders. Required Reading Chapter 8	Class lecture Online Discussion
	Seminar 8: The body, beach culture and spatial divide in Sydney Required Reading Readings in Module 8 in CANVAS	Class Lecture Online Discussion
	Seminar 9: Field Class Details will be provided in Seminar 1	Field Class
	Seminar 10: Personality Disorders Required Reading Chapter 11	Class Lecture Online Revision Quiz 3
	Seminar 11: Cognitive Disorders Required Reading Chapter 13	Class Lecture Online Discussion
	Seminar 12 Course summary and evaluation Final Exam	Class Final Exam

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance

All attendances should be recorded by faculty in CANVAS for every class. Students are given one “sick day” per course per semester without penalty. Each unauthorised absence thereafter will incur a one third grade

penalty. For example, an A- will be reduced to a B+. Students are sent email reminders about the attendance policy after each absence. Staff (not faculty) will calculate any grade reduction at the end of the semester.

Missing classes for medical reasons

Students are granted one sick day per course. If a student needs to miss additional class time for medical reasons, for a family emergency or for a religious holiday, the student must provide evidence of the reason for his/her absence, otherwise the student will receive a grade reduction. In case of serious illness, students should see a doctor on the day of the absence and bring back a medical statement to CAPA staff. It is the responsibility of the student to contact his/her instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from you, the student, a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honour in his or her scholastic work and class behaviour. Plagiarism and cheating, including duplication of work, will result in the failure of the assignment concerned and possible dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class

All devices such as laptops, iPods, iPads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are NOT allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators

In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission

Late submission of papers due, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behaviour during Examinations

During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action