

**PSY 350
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
SPRING 2011**

Course Information

Title: Psy 350
Reference Number: 22542
Credit hours: 3
Time: Mon. & Wed. 2:00-3:15
Location: HH 214

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Sawssan Ahmed
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Office hours: by appointment
Email: sahmed@casrc.org
Course webpage:
<https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login>

Note: This syllabus establishes rules and procedures for this course. Your decision to remain enrolled in the class indicates that you agree to follow these rules.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The overall goal of this class is to explore the meaning and nature of “abnormality.” We will examine a wide range of psychopathology as well as the theoretical models that delineate factors contributing to its onset and maintenance. We will then explore assessment techniques, diagnostic criteria and the treatment of mental disorders. This course is designed to familiarize students with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in abnormal psychology. The course will include:

1. The history and definition of mental illness
2. Assessment and classification of psychological disorders
3. Different theoretical perspectives on psychological disorders
4. Research methods employed in the study of psychological disorders
5. Causes and symptoms of various psychological disorders
6. Current approaches to treating psychological disorders
7. Discussing the effects of societal perceptions (and misperceptions) of psychopathology

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course students will be able to:

1. Gain basic knowledge of the major psychological disorders as currently defined in the field, including the primary symptoms, etiological theories, and treatment approaches associated with each disorder.
2. Learn the primary methods used to define, assess, and conceptualize psychopathology.
3. Consider the effects of societal perceptions (and misperceptions) of psychopathology.

REQUIRED TEXT

Kring, Ann M., Johnson, S.L., Davison, Gerald C., Neale, John M. (2004). *Abnormal Psychology, 11th Edition*. New York: Wiley.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures

Lecture will elaborate on the major aspects of the chapter readings, and will incorporate a discussion of your thoughts and ideas on the topics covered.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be based on **three NON-cumulative midterm exams** and **one NON-cumulative final exam**. Your lowest midterm grade will be dropped. There will also be extra-credit opportunities (described below):

YOU MUST BRING A SCANTRON FORM AND #2 PENCIL FOR EACH EXAM; THESE CANNOT BE PROVIDED FOR YOU. THE REQUIRED FORM IS "PARSCORE FORM #F-288-PAR-L".

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BRING YOUR UNIVERSITY ID TO THE EXAM; YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE CHECKED BEFORE YOU ARE ALLOWED TO TURN IN THE EXAM. No other form of identification will be accepted.

1. **Midterm Exams:** At **three** time points during the semester, midterm exams will be given. They will consist of multiple-choice questions. Midterm exams will not be cumulative; that is, each test will cover only the material listed on the syllabus since the previous test. Midterm exams will cover material from **lectures, class discussion, and the assigned readings**, thus attendance and thoughtful consideration of class discussions is important when taking exams.

All students should take the midterm exams at the date and time specified in the syllabus. **There will be no make-up exams.** Your grade will be determined by averaging the grade you earned from your two highest exam scores. That is, I will throw out your lowest exam score when calculating your final grade. Thus, if you need to miss an exam because of illness or other personal emergency, I will throw out the zero you earned on that exam when calculating your final grade. Please use this option carefully, as there will be no make-up exams.

2. **Final Exam:** There will be a NON-cumulative final exam given during the scheduled final exam time (see Course Schedule for details). The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. The final exam will cover material from **lectures, class discussion, and the assigned readings**, similar to the midterms. All students should take the final exam at the date and time specified in the syllabus. **There will be no make-up final exam. If you miss the final exam, you will earn a ZERO, which will be factored into your final grade.**

Extra Credit

The instructor may give short extra credit quizzes in class without prior notice to assess students' knowledge of the assigned reading. Therefore it is to your advantage to attend lecture regularly. The instructor may also include extra credit items on the exams.

GRADES

Your grade will be determined based upon a total of 1000 points.

1. Midterm Exam Score 1 (highest score)	300 points (30%)
2. Midterm Exam Score 2 (second highest score)	300 points (30%)
3. Final Exam Score	<u>400 points (40%)</u>
	* 1000 points TOTAL

*This does not include any points gained from unannounced extra credit quizzes or extra credit items on the exam.

Grading Scale

925 – 1000 points = A	694 – 675 points = D+
924 – 895 points = A-	674 – 625 points = D
894 – 875 points = B+	624 – 595 points = D-
874 – 825 points = B	Below 595 points = F
824 – 795 points = B-	
794 – 775 points = C+	
774 – 725 points = C	
724 – 695 points = C-	

Students With Disabilities

Accommodations will be provided to students who receive disability services through the SDSU Disabled Student Services Office. Contact the professor for further information or to ask questions. Please make such requests during the first two weeks of class.

BLACKBOARD SITE FOR COURSE

Course documents such as lecture notes, handouts, and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Lecture notes will be posted on the Blackboard site the day before the lecture. You are expected to check the Blackboard site located at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login> regularly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At various times in the semester, it may be necessary to make changes in the course schedule, reading assignments, or other aspects of the course. These changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. You will be responsible for all announcements whether or not you are present in class. Students will be held responsible for all e-mail communication delivered via the Blackboard system.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & CLASSROOM COURTESY

Course requirements and the course calendar are listed below. It is expected that students will come to class prepared and take steps to ensure they understand the material presented in lecture (including taking lecture notes and asking questions during class).

It is to your advantage to keep up with your reading assignments. You should have read the assigned reading for a given lecture date at least once before attending that lecture. You will also find it helpful to review your lecture notes prior to the upcoming lecture. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lecture and to participate in classroom discussion..

Cell Phone Use. Out of courtesy to your instructor and your fellow classmates, please switch your cell phone to “off” or “silent” mode when class is in session and refrain from texting. If you need to answer a call (such as in an emergency), please exit the classroom before answering. Cell phones must be “put away” with other personal items during exams. **You will receive a zero on your exam if you use any electronic device.**

Conversations During Class: This is a large class and personal conversations, especially if there are several taking place at one time, can be very distracting to others. *Out of courtesy and respect for your fellow classmates, please refrain from personal conversations during lectures, class discussions, films, and exams.* However, relevant questions during class and participation in class discussions are strongly encouraged.

A NOTE ON DISHONESTY AND CHEATING

Academic honesty is vital to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge in a University. One example of academic dishonesty is plagiarism, which is defined at SDSU as “the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the University as one’s own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source.” Plagiarism constitutes a violation of the University Judicial Code. Another example is cheating on an exam or permitting another student to cheat from your exam. Suspected academic dishonesty would be considered very seriously and a report would be filed with the SDSU Office of Judicial Affairs. In the event of a confirmed case of academic dishonesty, the student or students involved would not receive credit for the assignment or exam, and their final course grade would additionally be lowered by at least one full letter grade. Please make sure you are familiar with the University’s policies, and feel free to ask me if you have any questions. You can refer to the University’s definition of plagiarism (<http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/htc/Plagiarism.pdf>) or its policy on “Handling Cases of Suspected Plagiarism.” Students are encouraged to speak to the professor if they are unclear about how to accurately cite someone else’s work in their paper.

Cheating includes: using unauthorized materials of any kind during a test, exam, quiz, or on any other assignment, viewing or copying information from another student (past or present, at this University or any other institution). Verbal communication between students on test content is also prohibited (this includes the use of electronic devices etc.). **If you have questions during the exam, you should only ask the instructor.**

Spring 2011 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change depending on how we as a class progress through the material. Please see the course's Blackboard site to keep up to date with any course changes.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assigned Reading</i>
1/19	Wednesday	Introduction	
1/24	Monday	Historical Overview	Chapter 1
1/26	Wednesday	Current Paradigms	Chapter 2
1/31	Monday	Classification, Diagnosis & Assessment	Chapter 3
2/2	Wednesday	Classification, Diagnosis & Assessment	Chapter 3
2/7	Monday	Research Methods	Chapter 4
2/9	Wednesday	EXAM 1	
2/14	Monday	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5
2/16	Wednesday	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6
2/21	Monday	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6
2/23	Wednesday	Stress & Health	Chapter 7
2/28	Monday	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8
3/2	Wednesday	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8
3/7	Monday	Catch up Day/Review	
3/9	Wednesday	EXAM 2	
3/14	Monday	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
3/16	Wednesday	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 10
3/21	Monday	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 10
3/23	Wednesday	Schizophrenia	Chapter 11
4/4	Monday	NO CLASS	
4/6	Wednesday	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
4/11	Monday	Personality Disorders	Chapter 12
4/13	Wednesday	Catch up Day/Review	
4/18	Monday	EXAM 3	
4/20	Wednesday	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 14
4/25	Monday	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 14
4/27	Wednesday	Late Life & Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
5/2	Monday	Psychological Treatment	Chapter 16
5/4	Wednesday	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 17
5/9	Monday	Catch up Day/Review	
5/18	Wednesday	FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 18, 1-3pm	