

Abnormal Psychology (3318)
Fall 2008
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Monica Ramirez Basco, Ph.D.

Office Number: Life Sciences Building, Room 407

Office Telephone Number: (817) 272-7559

Email Address: Basco@UTA.edu

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 11:00 to 12:00, or by appointment

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title:

Abnormal Psychology (Psyc 3318)

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MW: 1:00pm to 2:20pm

Description of Course Content:

Major forms of psychopathology, classification, etiology, treatment of major disorders

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Become familiar with diagnostic criteria for major mental disorders
2. Understand the limitations of diagnostic assessment
3. Develop an understanding of the biopsychosocial model of psychopathology

Requirements: Prerequisite - Psyc 1315

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Durand, V. Mark and Barlow, David, H. (2006). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 4th Edition. Belmont, Ca: Thomson-Wadsworth

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read in advance the chapters designated by week in the outline below.

For the Week Beginning	Durand & Barlow	Topic
Aug 25	1	Introduction
Sept 1	2	Biopsychosocial Model of Psychopathology Labor Day, Monday Sept. 1st– No class
Sept 8	3	Diagnostic Assessment
Sept 15	6	Depression
Sept 22	6	Bipolar Disorders Midterm examination #1 on Wed. 9/24
Sept 29	12	Schizophrenia Paper Topic Due in Class on Monday 9/29
Oct 6	4	Anxiety Disorders
Oct 13	5	Stress and Somatoform Disorders
Oct 20	10	Substance Abuse Midterm examination #2 on Wed. 10/22
Oct 27	8	Eating Disorders & Sleep Disorders Biopsychosocial Model Paper Due on Mon. 10/27 October 31st is the last day to drop classes
Nov 3	9	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
Nov 10	11	Personality Disorders
Nov 17	13	Childhood Disorders Diagnostic Paper Due on Wed 11/19
Nov 24	14	Disorders of Aging Legal and Ethical Issues
Dec 1		Dead Week Course Review Wed 12/3 at 1:00
Dec 8		Final Exam: 11:00 – 1:30

Attendance: Students are responsible for all material covered in class as well as in each reading assignment. Half of the exam questions will come from the book chapters and half will come from the lectures and videos shown in class. Note that class lectures will include information not necessarily contained in readings. Videotaped samples shown in class may be the subject of examination questions.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

Examinations:

- There will be **three** major examinations.
- The first midterm examination is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 24th** during class. It will be based on the readings and lectures to date. The first midterm exam will be worth 100 points and will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions.
- The second midterm examination is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 22nd** and will cover the lecture and readings since the last examination. The second midterm exam will also be worth 100 points. The midterm exam with the lowest score will be dropped. Both exams must be taken. If only one exam is taken, the second one will receive a score of zero and the two midterm grades will be averaged. If you receive a grade of A on the first mid-term exam, you may elect to not take the second midterm exam.
- The final examination is scheduled for **Monday, December 8th from 11:00am to 1:30pm.** The multiple choice section of the final exam will not be cumulative, but will cover only the chapters since the last exam. **The short answer and essay sections of the exam will be cumulative.** The final will be worth 150 points.

Writing Projects:

Topic is due on Monday, September 29th in class. A form must be completed and signed by the student. Topics may not be changed after this date. (25 points)

Writing Project #1: Biopsychosocial Model of Mental Illness – Due Monday, Oct. 27th (75 points)

To test the application of your understanding of the process of diagnostic assessment, you will be asked to provide a biopsychosocial assessment of a popular or historical figure.

- Paper Length: 3 double-spaced pages, not including references.
- DUE: Monday, Oct. 27th in class. **No late papers will be accepted.**
- Use APA style for your references. Use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Fifth Edition*

- Contents of paper:
 1. Select a popular or historical figure with psychological problems. Keep in mind that you must provide verifiable evidence of these problems. Sources of information can include books, articles, television stories, newspapers, and the Internet. Give a description of the type of psychological or psychiatric problems your character has experienced.
 2. Describe the biopsychosocial model of your subject's problems. For example, he or she might have a family history of alcohol abuse and is therefore genetically vulnerable (biological factor); is surrounded by drugs and alcohol because of his or her lifestyle (social factor); and feels depressed and uses alcohol to cope with his or her feelings (psychological factor). This model will be covered in class. **Be sure to explain each component of the model AND how these three components interact.**

Writing Project #2: Diagnostic Assessment – Due Wednesday, Nov. 19th in class (100 points)

- Paper Length: 4-6 double-spaced pages, not including references.
- Use APA style for your references. Use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Fifth Edition*
- Contents of paper:
 1. Describe the person and the nature of his or her problems. Provide verifiable examples along with references that illustrate each problem.
 2. State your hypothesized diagnosis. Use DSM-IV diagnostic categories. Provide your evaluation **on all five** DSM-IV Axes.

Axis I: Clinical Disorders

Axis II: Personality Disorders and/or Mental Retardation

Axis III: Any important general medical conditions, illnesses, or injuries, even if they did not cause the Axis I or II problem

Axis IV: Psychosocial and Environmental Problems with:
 Primary Support Group
 Related To Social Environment
 Educational Problems
 Occupational Problems
 Housing Problems

Economic Problems
Access To Health Care Services
Interaction With The Legal System/Crime
Other Psychosocial Or Environmental Problems

Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning

3. Provide specific examples of each of the criterion symptoms the person displays. For example, if you diagnosed the person with Bulimia, provide a specific example of binge eating along with a reference for that source of information. Picture or other illustrations can be used if they assist in providing evidence of a symptom or disorder.
4. You must justify your diagnosis with examples and you must have verifiable references for those examples.
5. It is possible that your character will have a diagnosis on Axis I, but not Axis II and vice versa.

Grading Policy: The course grade will be based on your performance on the best of the two midterm examinations, the two writing projects including turning in a topic on 9/29, and the final examination.

- Midterm exam: 100 points
- Paper topic: 25 points
- Biopsychosocial Model paper: 75 points
- Diagnostic Paper: 100 points
- Final examination: 150 points
- Total possible points: 450

Course Grading will be as follows: A=405-450 points; B=360-404 points; C= 315-359 points; D=270-314 points; F= 269 points or less.

Attendance Policy: Students will be responsible for all material covered in class. Note that material presented in lecture, including videotapes, may not be included in the readings.

Drop Policy: Please refer to the University's drop policies. Note that the last day to drop classes is **October 31st**.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the

basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. This will be the week of **December 1st through December 5th**. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. An optional course review is schedule for Wednesday, December 3rd, 1:00pm – 2:20pm.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular,

important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Students may contact Dr. Basco by email at Basco@UTA.edu or by phone (817) 272-7559. In the event of an emergency, the student should contact the Psychology office (817-272-2281) to leave a message if unable to reach Dr. Basco by phone.

Make-up Exam Policy: Examinations can be taken early with prior arrangement with the professor. Missed examinations can be made up with two conditions. **First, the student must provide prior notification to Dr. Basco that an examination will be missed.** This must be done prior to the time of the examination. The student can email or call Dr. Basco or can leave a message with the Psychology office. **Second, only absences due to illness, injury, or other extreme circumstance will be accepted. Documentation of the problem, such as a doctor's note, is required in all cases. The written project will not be accepted late.**